

THE ROUND TABLE.

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LAURENTIUS.

THIS is the story which is told
Of the Church of Christ in days of old;
Before its purpose was warped and bent
Out of its first and best intent.
This is the legend, strange and true,
Of one who did what he found to do.

In Decius' time, when o'er the land
The persecuting flame was fanned,
The good Laurentius, of Rome,
Abode in peacefulness at home.
The care was his, each Sabbath day,
To bear the church's gifts away,
And, through the coming week, secure
These benefactions to the poor.
Daily he gave, and ever fed
The hungry with their daily bread;
And those whom others had denied
His Christian charity supplied.
He raised no mansion to allure
The thronging myriads of poor;
But to the prefect one had showed
What blessings from his bounty flowed.
How freely, yet how fairly, fell
Those heavenly guerdons none may tell,
Until, with those who walk with God,
The footsteps of our faith have trod.

But now the Emperor's decree
Went forth and traversed Italy:
That there should be the strictest search
To gather money from the church;
And, through the deacons, to extort
Whatever might adorn the court.
Prætor and Ædile then began
With speed to carry out the plan;
And robbing thus, of course retained
Their portion of the plunder gained.

Most of all else one prefect's eye
Was loth to pass Laurentius by;
Not any deacon seemed more free
In charitable works than he.
To seize the hoard from which he spent
Was surely what his lord had meant.
Honor and wealth and all the band
Of high preferments were at hand,
If only one might prove his zeal
As prompt to plan, and apt to steal.

He caught the deacon unawares,
Returning from the evening prayers,
And harshly, with a look and frown
Designed to beat resistance down,
"Show me," he cried, "your church's gold;
For you possess it I am told."

The meek Laurentius, with eyes
Bright in the gleams of Paradise,
And wrinkled face, through which there ran
A glory undiscerned of man,

Looked up and smiled, and seemed to be
A monarch in his majesty.
He quivered not with any dread,
Nor bowed at all his snowy head,
But stood serene and calm and grand
Before those words of stern command.
His threadbare mantle, flowing down,
Was graceful as a consul's gown;
And, though no purple stripe it bore,
Displayed its owner's worth the more.
Silent he stood before the throng,
Weak in his age, yet proudly strong,
And raised his voice in mild reply:
"Give me three days in which to try
And redemand from every source
Our sacred treasure without force.
Many are those to whom I go;
Much has been loaned and much we owe."

The greedy prefect, glad at heart
Since fate made this the better art,
Unhesitating, granted grace
For such delay and such a space
Of time before his hopes of gold
Should grow and blossom manifold.

The days of respite passed, and then
Laurentius appeared again
And gave him this inviting word:
"Come, see the treasure of our Lord!
A court in which you shall behold
Uncounted vessels, all of gold;
And porches never heaped before
With such a wealth of shining ore."

The prefect rubbed his hands in glee
And followed him with ecstasy,
As one who, watching far and wide
The footprints of the falling tide,
Discerns some rare and perfect pearl
Cast upward by the ocean's whirl.
Street after street he followed through
In haste the promised sight to view,
And ever came the eager thought
That even questorships were bought.

At last, through portals high and fair
They reached the Christians' place of prayer,
And crowding in the court around
A multitude possessed the ground.
The prefect looked and, in amaze,
Continued still his earnest gaze;
For still, on every side, he saw
The victims of a cruel law.
Beggars, in rank and in degree
The very lords of beggary:
The crippled hero of the wars,
In all his panoply of scars;
The gladiator, gashed and torn
By lion's claws or bison's horn;
The slave, his brawny shoulders bare
Latticed with scourgings everywhere;
The strange and terrible array
Of those who must be always gay,
Who strive for ever to beguile
With fixed and artificial smile—
Flute-girls and dancers, whom their fate
Had made the playthings of the great,
The foam and frothing on the brink
Of bitterness which Rome should drink.

All these and other sights of pain
Were seen, and yet were seen in vain;
For other, sadder shapes of woe,
Before his eyes made haste to go.
And, miserable in the shade
Which the extended porches made,
Lay those, worn out with old disease,
Whose cup of life was at its lees:
The lame, the maimed, the weak, the blind,
Were they who thus remained behind.

In doubt as yet what this might mean
The prefect paused, and stood between
Two marble pillars, much perplexed,
Fearing the mob and sorely vexed.

"Behold!" once more Laurentius said,
"The bequests of our sainted dead.
These are our treasures, better far
Than gold and gems and silver are,
These are crown jewels of the bride
Which make her fit for Jesus' side.
Take them for him who sent you here
And use them in the master's fear.
Take them for Rome, and take them, too,
As better wealth than you pursue;
For he who giveth to the Lord
Shall never lose his sure reward."

Abashed the prefect turned away.
But further none can truly say,
Till God shall break the judgment seal
And thus all hidden things reveal.
SAMUEL W. DUFFIELD.

CHILDREN BEDIZENED.

AMONG the extravagances which certainly entitle our country and period to some distinction, the present fashion of child's attire is very conspicuous, not to say glaring. Whether Paris is answerable for the extraordinary figures of child-life that meet the eye at every turn, or whether the thing is of the native mushroom growth and of shoddy born, we are unable positively to affirm. At any rate, the subject is a racy one for the pencil of the caricaturist, only, alas! we have no first-class comic paper as a medium for disseminating the grotesque record. Besides, color has so much to do with the cherished *chiffons* of the juveniles now that nothing short of chromo-lithography could do justice to the subject, which would fall far short of the reality even in the black and white treatment of *Punch's corps du crayon*.

Not many days ago we took the liberty of compiling an inventory of the clothing and accessories sported by a young lady of the mature age of six or thereabouts, who dispensed much local color to the scenery of a fashionable avenue, accompanied by her *bonne*. The shortness and expansive character of the skirt worn by this young person imparted to her the general appearance of a ballet-dancer as one of those evolutionary *artistes* appears when executing a *pirouette*. The expensive lace frill of the pantalettes descended no lower than just to kiss the top of the long white stocking somewhere in the region of the knee. The skirt, which was white, was adorned with much elaborate fluting in blue ribbon. Over this was worn a little cloak of black velvet, which must have cost ever so much a yard, and all the margins of this were studded thickly with small silver buttons. On the fair head of the young person under notice there sat, jauntily, a white jockey-hat trimmed with streamers of blue ribbon and surmounted with a white ostrich plume. Boots of a bright vermilion hue encased the feet of this favored child. Her parasol was of white silk, lined and tagged with the same in scarlet, and she was provided with a little pocket-handkerchief, of which the lace might have been worth about ten dollars. The hair of the child was flaxen, and would have been beautiful had it not been crimped painfully over cushions or wads. She had jeweled rings in her little white ears, and, as she drew off one tiny, tan-colored Jouvin glove, we could see that her little white fingers were bejeweled also. This is a correct description of the article under notice so far as our memory serves us. It is not an exceptional instance. We have taken it at random, and its repetitions are to be seen on all our fashionabl-

avenues—all different, perhaps, but all marked by the same extravagance of cut and color in their garb.

Viewing such objects as these—and the little boys are, if possible, worse than the little girls in their extravagant bedizenings—the grave question arises as to how the mind of the rising generation is likely to be influenced by the idiotic frippery on which it is taught to dwell. In the matter of taste, even, the consideration is a very serious one. It is by early associations that taste is, for the most part, formed. The spangled juvenile of the circus grows up to be a spangled clown. Simplicity has been reckoned as an element inseparable from republics; but that is an idea of the past, and, in the extravagance that has taken its place, there is a vista of much future trouble. We sometimes think that there may be such a case as too much civilization, and, really, at this period, the extremes appear as if they were about to meet.

The turn for frippery is a marked characteristic of man in a savage state; and we really seem to be coming round to that point of the circle when tattooing our little children, and putting rings in their noses, and bars of *lignum-vite* through their under lips, will be quite the thing, and when Tom Fool will be king, and shall have his own again.

THE HISTORY OF INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT IN CONGRESS.

II.

ON the 24th of April, 1838, Edward Everett and others, of Boston, memorialized Congress for amendment of the laws regulating literary property, so as to extend to all authors the privilege of copyright for works originally and simultaneously printed and published in this country. Mr. Clay also presented the petition of Henry Ogden and others, of New York, for an international copyright law. At the same session memorials against such a law were presented from the booksellers of Boston; from the New York Typographical Society; from J. Fagan and others, printers, of Philadelphia; from D. F. Robinson and others, printers and publishers, of Hartford; all of which, assuming that the measure would probably pass, remonstrated against it as unjust to the large interests involved of the reprinters of English books. The memorial of the Boston booksellers was distinctly aimed at securing such a law as should protect their interests, and they made the following points, which are noteworthy as furnishing hints on the various interests involved:

"In order to the protection of our own manufactures and industry, for which we are mainly solicitous, and on which depend our means of subsistence, we conceive that the following provisions should be clearly and explicitly set forth in the proposed law:

- "1. That the act shall not apply to any books, etc., printed or published, or which are in the course of publication, prior to its passage; or to any subsequent editions of the same works, however altered or revised.
- "2. That the work for which the copyright is secured in the United States shall be published simultaneously with its issue in the foreign country, and within one month after depositing the title thereof in the clerk's office.
- "3. That every such book shall be manufactured in this country, and published by an American citizen or citizens. The types, stereotypes, paper, and binding all to be of American manufacture.
- "4. That on the back of the title-page of every copy of such book, whether of the American or foreign edition, shall be printed the proper certificate of such copyright.
- "5. That the privileges thus granted are upon the express condition that American authors or proprietors of books shall have the same rights secured to them by a law of the nation or nations to which the authors or persons for whose benefit this act is intended belong, if such law does not now exist; and to continue so long only as such privileges are reciprocated.

"In regard to the preceding articles, we trust that the propriety of annexing them, in substance, to any act which may be passed, will be obvious; as it will secure our own publishers from loss on capital already invested in foreign works, and the privilege of manufacturing and furnishing a supply for our own country, which they now enjoy, while they leave to the foreign author the protection he solicits.

"Boston, March 28, 1838."

A memorial from Philadelphia in favor of the law thus succinctly stated the argument in its favor:

"The copyright law of the United States is an anomaly in civilized legislation. The effect of limiting the protection of copyright to citizens or residents is as impolitic as it is unjust. It was, no doubt, introduced from the kindest feelings towards our native authors, although has been ruinous in the extreme to their interests.

Under this clause the publishers of the United States have, with some few honorable exceptions, become but mere republishers of foreign books. Confidently relying on the justice of our appeal, we beg respectfully to solicit the extension of the advantages of copyright to all, native or foreign, resident or non-resident. This measure (virtually an international copyright law) is not only demanded by a just regard to the property of foreign writers, but it is imperatively required for the advancement of our own literature."

All these petitions were referred to the Committee on Patents, Mr. Clay's select committee on the subject having expired with the preceding Congress. On the 28th of June, 1838, Senator Ruggles, of Maine, reported back from that committee the bill referred to them (which was Mr. Clay's bill heretofore given) with a recommendation that it do not pass. In the report of the committee it is stated that

"The committee have given to the subject all that consideration which the urgent appeals for such an enactment on the one hand, and the still more urgent remonstrances against it on the other, appeared to claim for a question which has excited so much interest."

The report proceeds to set forth that "this government is under no obligations to extend to the subjects of any foreign power exclusive copyright privileges." It then places in strong array the economical argument insisted on in all the petitions against the law, stating the number of persons connected with book-making in the United States at 200,000, and the capital at from thirty to forty millions, and asserting that, "by the enactment of an international copyright law in favor of British authors, the profits of trade and manufacture and all the benefits arising from encouragement to national industry would be, for us, on the wrong side of the ledger." Without considering any of the means proposed of obviating this, the report proceeds:

"It may be asked if we should not have an offset in similar advantages under the copyright law of Great Britain. The answer is found in the significant inquiry of the British reviewer—'Who ever reads an American book?'"

If any of the modern opponents of international justice to authors should repeat any of the above arguments, they would be ruled out in every intelligent mind by the simple fact that they are thirty years behind the age.

After dwelling upon the enhanced cost of books which the measure would entail, the committee proceeded to predict that, while all "useful and valuable books would, from their high price, have but a restricted sale," worthless books, on the other hand, "whose circulation should rather be prohibited than encouraged, would, from their comparative cheapness, find their way into every hamlet and cottage in the country." That this is now the effect of the want of an international copyright is too obvious for argument; but it is also plain that the high price of many of the higher class of literary productions is caused by the limited market and the heavy cost of importation, while, under the operation of a copyright law, the demand for good books would be more than doubled, enabling the publishers to reduce the selling price in both countries. The effect of the reciprocal copyright treaty between England and France has been to diminish the cost of all books published, while greatly increasing their sale.

The report of the Committee on Patents concludes with re-asserting that

"The benefit of such a law would inure, principally, to foreign publishers and manufacturers, to the great discouragement of our own; nor are the committee satisfied that the public interest requires that the executive should be authorized to negotiate for an international copyright."

Thus comprehensively was the door of hope closed upon the authors of all countries, including our own, by this all too narrow report, which was perforce accepted as final by the Congress of 1838, so rare is it for that body to set aside the report of a committee and take independent action.

The question now slept for four years, saving a motion by Mr. Clay, at the next session, "that the petitions on the subject of an international copyright, on the files of the last session, be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary." The object was to secure, if possible, from another committee, a more favorable report. But the Judiciary Committee, on March 1st, 1839 (three days before the end of the session), simply asked to be discharged from the further consideration

of these memorials, which was granted. On the 11th of January, 1842, Mr. Clay again introduced his bill providing for copyright to foreign authors, and it was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. On the 14th of March a petition from Washington Irving and twenty-four other citizens, praying for the adoption of an international copyright law, was presented in the House, and referred to a select committee, consisting of John P. Kennedy (himself a prominent author), Robert C. Winthrop, J. H. Brockway, J. McKeon, and Benjamin G. Shields. No report was made from this committee, perhaps because of the unfavorable view arrived at by the Judiciary Committee of the Senate, having the same subject in charge, of which we are apprised in the following, the sole record of their action:

"MAY 11.—In the Senate, Mr. Preston inquired of the chairman of the Judiciary Committee what had become of the international copyright bill referred to that committee four months ago. Mr. Berrien replied that the committee had considered the subject and were ready to report adversely two months ago, but the report was withheld solely at the instance of the senator who introduced the bill." Whereupon, "Mr. Buchanan and several senators expressed in an audible tone their satisfaction at hearing that the committee would report adversely to the passage of the bill."

Meanwhile it became known to the country that the British Parliament had taken active steps towards an international copyright treaty with such nations as would reciprocate, and on the 7th of April, 1842, the President (John Tyler) was requested to communicate to the House all correspondence between our government and that of Great Britain on the subject. The President transmitted in reply only a letter from our minister resident in London, inclosing a note from Lord Palmerston, dated as far back as 1839, requesting to learn "whether the government of the United States is disposed to enter into any arrangement with the government of this country for the purpose of securing copyright to authors and publishers within the dominions and territories of Great Britain and the United States." This correspondence was referred to the select committee of the House on international copyright, but nothing came of it then or thereafter, and Mr. Tyler's administration lost the best opportunity ever vouchsafed to our government of placing the rights of American authors in Great Britain on the firm basis of international treaty.

At the next session of Congress (1842-3) the select committee of the House on this subject was reappointed, Mr. Caleb Cushing being substituted for Mr. Shields on the committee. They made no report. On the 15th of December, 1843, Mr. Choate presented in the Senate the memorial of certain American publishers and booksellers praying for the passage of an international copyright law. The memorial was signed by about one hundred firms and individuals, including the following well-known names: D. Appleton & Co., Robert Carter, Bartlett & Welford, Crocker & Brewster, W. D. Ticknor & Co., Durrie & Peck, Hogan & Thompson, A. S. Barnes & Co., B. B. Mussey, J. B. Lippincott & Co., John F. Trow, E. Walker & Co., Wm. Gowans, Roe Lockwood, and C. S. Francis & Co. This was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. The same memorial was presented in the House by John Quincy Adams, and referred to a select committee, consisting of Messrs. Winthrop (chairman), Adams, C. J. Ingersoll, Black, Chapman, Herrick, Leonard, Bowlin, and Potter. January 5, 1844, Mr. Winthrop presented the petition of Nahum Capen, of Boston, an industrious and careful compiler and editor, which was referred to the same committee, and is noticeable as presenting a well-considered disquisition upon the true foundation of copyright.

Nothing more is recorded for three years, when, on the 26th January, 1846, the several memorials on the files of the Senate in relation to copyright were referred to a select committee, consisting of Messrs. Cass (chairman), Berrien, Dix, Johnson (of Md.), and Pennybacker. This committee failed to report.

On the 22d March, 1848, there was presented in the House a memorial from John Jay, also from Wm. C. Bryant and others, praying for the passage of an international copyright law. These were referred to a select committee, consisting of Messrs. T. Butler King, Geo. P. Marsh, C. J. Ingersoll, Horace Mann, Isaac E. Morse, H. W. Hilliard, A. D. Sims, W. B.

Preston, and Henry C. Murphy. This committee, although composed of a majority themselves authors, made no report, notwithstanding that the session of Congress was prolonged till the 14th of August, 1848. It is possible that they were too much engaged in president-making.

No further record appears on this subject until February 1, 1851, when the memorial of the American Medical Association, of Cincinnati, was referred to the Judiciary Committee, in which "tomb of the Capulets" it was suffered to slumber. The same fate befell the petition of J. Fenimore Cooper, Washington Irving, and others, presented by Mr. Sumner, on the 19th of July, 1852, and referred to the joint committee on the library of Congress.

The subject now appears to have slept until 1858, when Hon. E. Joy Morris, of Philadelphia, then a member of the House, introduced a bill to provide for an international copyright law. This was referred to the Library Committee; but, no report being made, Mr. Morris renewed the introduction of the bill two years later (February 16, 1860), and it was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. The excitement of the presidential election supervened, followed by the four years' civil war from which we have lately emerged. It is hardly surprising that nothing was done in Congress during those absorbing and eventful years towards securing the fruits of their labors to American authors. But it will not only be surprising but inexcusable if, now that peace has come to bless the land, and its fruits are nowhere more discernable than in the increased literary effort which does honor to all parts of our common country, no step shall be taken by our government to establish the just rights and rewards of men of letters on a firm and enduring basis.

REVIEWS.

RIVES'S MADISON.*

THE progress of this work was one of the many undertakings interrupted by the late civil war. The first volume was published in 1859, after it had engaged the author's attention during two years, and he professed to have been prompted to the task by a desire to do justice to the reputation of a man so distinguished, and to make use of many valuable and authentic materials which, by public charge and private courtesy, had been in his keeping. It followed the career of his subject from his birth, in 1751, down to the beginning of the year 1785, being in great degree a history of the public measures during that time, giving naturally prominence to those of Virginia and Madison himself. There was little in it, as there was little in Madison's career, independent of the common weal, and it was left for Mr. Rives to portray his subject, growing into manhood and passing into the meridian of his powers, more as a public citizen than as a private man.

The influence of Witherspoon at Nassau Hall seems to have had more than the usual power of such a guardian in molding the character of the young Virginian. A generous and wary nature, free to acknowledge the necessities of fortune and jealous of their perversion, guided his youthful impulses. The same generous indignation at religious persecution which he manifested in some of his earliest public connections carried him straight to the goal which he made his aim in more mature life. Young as he was at the time, he stamped his predilections upon the Virginia bill of rights, asserting the inherent and indefeasible right to freedom of religious belief, and, mistrustful of the dangerous fallacy of mere "toleration," he persisted until he secured the extirpation of the lurking mischief. His career in the Legislative Assembly of Virginia, in 1776, was marked by a maturity beyond his experience. He was not led into vain declamation at an age when so many are. Training and a virtuous habit alike conduced to a clearness of mind, and a vigilant foresight came of ardent patriotism. He pleaded for the freedom of the great river of the West as earnestly then as later when success had given the colonies a vantage-ground, and confederation had produced its enemies in the

East. He went into the Congress of the colonies at the period of the collapse of the paper credit system, when the emergency was all that was needed to elicit sound measures of finance, and at a time when the enemy were making renewed efforts for their conquest and the army needed most to be strengthened. He was alive to every test of that most lugubrious situation. He was as faithful to his duty and brought such elements of judgment, temper, and knowledge to the task as might have argued longer experience in statesmanship. When the time came for providing for the treasury of the young confederacy it was his share to devise a plan of revenue, and a faith in its principles prompted his letter of recommendation to the states. Here he was opposed by Hamilton, for their schemes for the future were widely different. Mr. Rives usually writes with moderation, and if with a natural bias in favor of the institutions and people of his section, not avoiding the opportunities of emphasis in their behalf, it is expressed with good temper and reasonable charity for all others. For the disciples of Hamilton, and particularly for his latest biographer, Mr. J. C. Hamilton, he has less patience, and allowably if the latter gentleman is guilty of all the misrepresentations and doggedness of error that Mr. Rives charges upon him. This is a matter we will not decide upon now, though our author repeats the charges in his second volume. Suffice it to say that in Hamilton and Madison there were opposing theories upon most things that rest at the bottom of governmental designs. There was not much that Madison could agree to in Hamilton's answer to the Rhode Island objection to the impost in 1783, embodying, as it did, his conceptions of a high-toned federal power, directed by some single will, with its praise of a funded national debt. On the other hand, Hamilton's objections to his friend's letter to the states in 1783, on his scheme for a revenue, wherein Madison had argued the benefits of many wills made one by friendly conjunction, and inculcated mutual deference and concession, could but be founded upon what seemed to Hamilton an utter inadequacy for national success.

Mr. Rives's second volume covers the period of the growing dissatisfaction with the articles of confederation until the final adoption of the Constitution. This interval he pronounces the most instructive and, in a civil and political view, the most eventful period of American annals—a statement only, perhaps, to be qualified by the passing conjuncture of affairs. The leading agency of Mr. Madison in producing the final consummation of government would naturally lead his biographer to a large exposition of the common danger and the remedy applied; and he does not hesitate to assume such a scope for his labors. It was, he claims, his subject's practical statesmanship that pointed out to him the opportune moment for bringing forward the decisive measures—an instinct that Hamilton had not possessed in 1782, when he agitated the question prematurely in New York; and although Madison himself had felt very sensibly the need of reform in 1784 he was in doubt if the juncture had arrived, which was proved by the nullity which came of the movement in Massachusetts the next year. The time was not, however, far distant when even Madison, as well as the great body of the moderate men of the time (whose work the Constitution was), saw that the moment was reached. Adams, in England, felt it when he experienced the supercilious indifference of the government to which he was so weakly accredited. Madison experienced it when he saw the proposition for severing the already insufficient bond, and looked forward with gloom to the future which might evolve the separation of the states. Monroe was using precisely the argument of so much avail with our generation at the beginning of our late conflict—that it was as well to use force to prevent the extinction of the Union as to defend ourselves thereafter. The South was "already jealous of northern politics," as Mr. Madison said, when Jay's proposed arrangement with Spain to surrender the Mississippi for a term of years, which met such favor at the East, only increased the sectional disquietude; and to allay this, and to prevent the outburst of civil commotion, now no longer uncertain, as the rebellion of Shay in Massachusetts and the commotion in other states had shown, and to cement friendly reciprocity by a community of com-

mercial regulations, was the work for "practical statesmanship" to accomplish. This Mr. Madison understood, and led the Virginia legislative body to take the steps that conducted to a convention.

Mr. Rives does not allow the insurrectionary tumult in Massachusetts to pass by without comment from his own stand-point. The same pecuniary embarrassments existed in other states, he says, but in Massachusetts it was the jealous and fierce spirit of democracy, agrarian in its views, which had been "largely infused in the original constitution of New England society," that was at the foundation of the troubles; and when the instability of government was so nearly proved, and it was seen how nearly overmatched the better classes had been, Mr. Rives thinks the reaction among them, that led to the friendliest of feelings in some for a monarchical form of government, was not unnatural. It certainly greatly aided to throw the weight and influence of the state almost entirely on the side of the Constitution when formed, and proved in her convention that the tyranny of the majority (as in such numbers the opponents of a new federation doubtless were at the start) could be met successfully by energy, persistency, device, and superior intellect and acquirements; for it was all these, against numbers, that secured the acceptance of the Constitution in the state convention. It was nothing but the good sense and "practical statesmanship" of Samuel Adams, not content, as Jefferson professed, to lose what had been gained by rejecting it for its objectionable feature, together with his implicit confidence in the success of the amendments he advocated, that gave strength to its friends and weakened by so much the uncompromising agrarian sentiment, as Mr. Rives would call it. His account of the convention in Boston is touched with not a little of this prejudice of his section. It is not that he characterizes it unjustly, but that he gives the fanatical opposition a setting forth that he does not recognize in the convention of other states. Patrick Henry's opposition in his own state was as factious as that of the less learned and less eloquent commonalty in Massachusetts; but he does not see it under the oratorical guise that the great Virginian debater gave it. The convention in Massachusetts was large, as the democratic spirit of her people seemed to demand, and had consequently a greater absolute number of weak and misguided men; but the preponderance was not such that she should be singled out in this respect and other states, like New York, for instance, left unexposed in such particulars. A little of this sectional feeling, not indeed arrogantly, but decidedly, crops out frequently in his narrative, as, for instance, when he rather disingenuously turns what Washington expressed as a mere alternative—that the population of castes at the South is not so likely as the democracy of the North to relapse into monarchical ideas—into a decided opinion, adding on his own part that the future history of the United States may yet further confirm it. Again, when he charges Gorham, of Massachusetts, with an illiberal sectional policy in advocating the closing of the Mississippi, he does not see that it was a similar sectional policy on the part of Virginia in urging the reverse, and that the case was then thought to be one of contrary interests, and a matter for a compromise, as the Constitution itself was. When Gerry, of Massachusetts, contended that if the future states of the West were allowed equal representation in the intended Congress, they would acquire power and drain the wealth of the seaboard, it was merest sectionalism no doubt; but it is only on the opposing interests being plainly expressed that the way is opened to plan the effective compromise by "practical statesmanship," and in this not always without uncertainty. No better instance of this miscalculation is shown than in the debates on the equal representation of all the states in the Senate. A population basis for the other house gave the North present preponderance; but it was argued that the greater extent and salubrity of the South would before long turn the scale—an opinion acquiesced in by that section—and it was a spirit of compromise North and South that secured the adoption of the states' equality in the Senate, as a means of securing the North in the future against the unqualified ascendancy of the

*"History of the Life and Times of James Madison." By Wm. C. Rives. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. Vol. I., 1859; and Vol. II., 1866.

South in the government. That this southern ascendancy in representation was not acquired, the great drawback on the prosperity of the South which has been so long the source of our intestine troubles is the adequate cause, although South Carolina and Georgia little dreamed of such a contingency when they were refusing to confederate without a guarantee of the slave trade. Just what the North was seeking to secure itself against then, we find within these two weeks the papers of the Southwest attempting now—that is, appeals to the West to unite with the South to overcome the influence of "Puritania," as they call it, in the national councils.

In parting with Mr. Rives's volumes, we cannot say that he strives to be a propagandist, or is factious in any distasteful degree. On the contrary, he writes with moderation and discipline. There is no doubt upon which side of the sectional diversities his sympathies rest, and for this, of course, we have no quarrel. That it should tinge his views is not strange. The few instances in which we have intimated he departed from a strict indifference to party feeling, we have pointed out not so much for reprobation as a note of characterization that the utterly dispassionate recital of historical conjunctures has not been written yet. The work, so far as it has gone, is certainly valuable to any one who would study the growth and fashioning of our government, and that, in telling the story of this, he could hardly have selected a central figure more imposing than that of Madison is equally most true. What Mr. Webster said of Madison, while the ex-President was yet alive—that he was the one of all that were concerned in molding the Constitution who best knew its history and understood its meaning—is well borne out by Mr. Rives's recital; and, in conclusion, we can but quote the author's expectations of the future, which, in a note stating that his volume was completed before the late war, he introduces thus: "The author cannot but express his sincere and sanguine hope that, with the re-establishment of peace, the system founded by our wise and virtuous ancestors will quietly revert to its original principles and beneficent operation, and continue to vindicate to future ages and the enlightened judgment of the world the comprehensive statesmanship and enlarged and noble patriotism in which it was conceived."

J. W.

LIBRARY TABLE.

"*A Text-book on Anatomy, Physiology, and Hygiene. For the use of Schools and Families.*" By John C. Draper, M.D., Professor of Natural History and Physiology in the New York Free Academy, and Professor of Analytical Chemistry in the University of New York. Harper & Brothers. 1866.

This book is divided into three parts: first, anatomy and statical physiology, or that which relates to man as an individual and discusses the functions of the different organs of the body; second, dynamic physiology, or that which relates to individuals in the social state and of masses of men or nations; third, hygiene. The treatise consists of fifty-four lectures, the substance of those delivered in the Academy. It was chiefly designed as a text-book for academic students. It is too advanced for beginners, especially as it is often deficient in definitions of terms which professional students are supposed to be familiar with. Being larger than the common school treatises on these subjects, more details are presented. In general the descriptions are plain, refer to the most important facts and principles, and the counsels are judicious, commending themselves by their practical good sense. Some of the illustrations are to be commended because the names of certain organs are engraved in such a way as to avoid the use of references by figures or letters.

Life is regarded as an inborn power directing the action of physical laws for its continuance, and is maintained by the oxydation of combustible material, or the assimilation of air, water, and food. The body is only a temporary shape assumed by myriads of particles passing through a determinate career. The tissues are composed of cells—the primordial condition of all organisms—the multiplication of which constitutes growth. The average amount of

food consumed by every man is 3,100 pounds per annum. This consists of nitrogenous compounds, as albumin and casein; hydro-carbons, as butter, fat, and oils; carbo-hydrates, as sugar, starch, and gum; and inorganic salts, chiefly common salt and phosphates. Mastication, the action of the saliva and gastric juice, convert food into chyme, a fluid in which the hydro-carbons are undissolved. The intestinal juices are required to digest the fats and reduce them in a way like their combination with alkalies to form soap. When the hydro-carbons are assimilated the fluid becomes chyle, and is transfused into the arteries by a different route from that taken by the chyme. The time required for the digestion of the more common dishes are given, and it appears that, when fried, food digests less easily than when roasted or boiled. Indigestion is a symptom of some disease.

The nutritive fluids are absorbed by capillary attraction. Blood forms by weight one-eighth part of the body, and derives its color from numerous disks scattered through the fluid, twenty millions of which are destroyed at every pulsation of the heart. Dr. J. W. Draper's theory of the cause of the circulation of the blood is adopted. It supposes that, capillary attraction causes the arterial to pass through the intermediate minute vessels into venous blood. The heart does not exert sufficient force to drive the blood through the capillaries and veins, but it keeps the arteries filled, so that a free supply is constantly present to enter the intricate frame-work, with its little disks laden with oxygen. The carbonaceous tissues through which the capillaries anastomose abstract the oxygen from the disks forming carbonic acid, which remains in the blood destroying its affinity for the sides of the tubes. Therefore, the blood urges its way onward through the veins to the lungs without pulsation, and gives off the impure carbonic acid in respiration. The author gives the details of many experiments upon the subject of insensible perspiration. Out of 6.36 pounds of aliment daily consumed, five were insensibly lost by perspiration and respiration, that is, the most of our food escapes through the pores of the skin and air-cells of the lungs. Experiments on respiration showed the average number of expirations in a minute to be sixteen, each one amounting to 38.8 cubic inches. The inevitable conclusion was that the office of the lungs is to introduce oxygen and remove carbonic acid from the system.

Animal heat is produced by the oxydation of food, or its burning. Experiments by the author indicate that the state of the health can be readily determined by the chemical character of the fluids ejected from the system. Nervous energy is said to be produced by the oxydation of phosphorus, and this statement is sustained by the presence of a greater amount of phosphates in the liquid ejecta after any powerful nervous affection. In opposition to phrenologists, Draper states convincingly that the office of the cerebellum is to produce regularity in the action of the muscles.

The second part—dynamic physiology—is condensed into three lectures, and treats of the mode of reproduction, the course of human life, and the influence of external agents on the physical and intellectual condition of man. Life is divided into five stages, the fetal, infantile, adolescent, adult, and old age. The subjects of Darwinism and the unity of the human race belong to this part, and are briefly discussed.

The subject of hygiene is treated severally with respect to the functions of digestion, respiration, the skin, muscles, and to prophylactics. Food should be taken at regular hours, and adapted to the age and condition. The mortality among city children in the summer is ascribed to improper diet. Man's teeth prove him omnivorous, but the relative proportions of animal and vegetable food used vary with the climate. Animals designed for the butcher's stall should be killed fasting, otherwise the gastric juice will impart a strong flavor to the meat. Capons are recommended, and broiling is considered the best method of cooking. Cow's milk should be diluted four or five times with water before it is fit for infants. Vegetable food needs to be selected with great care. The finest brands of wheat flour are deficient in the elements composing teeth, hence it is suggested that the bad teeth among the children of wealthy families

are more due to the flour than sugar consumed. All fresh ripe fruits are beneficial. Vinegar often assists digestion. Water is the natural fluid to quench thirst. If it contains infusions of organic matters, its action is deadly. Lead and copper should be avoided in the construction of reservoirs. Tea and coffee stimulate and take the place of food to some extent. The latter is most beneficial when prepared as an infusion. Chocolate is indigestible. Alcoholic stimulants should never be taken before excessive labor. After severe exercise their moderate use is considered beneficial. Tobacco in excess is injurious. Great care should be taken to secure perfect ventilation. The use of steam-pipes to warm rooms is soundly condemned. The greater average length of country over city life is ascribed to plenty of ventilation. Change of air is one of the best remedial agents. The use of flannel next the skin in all seasons is approved.

The best example of prophylactics, or the practical methods employed to forestall disease, is vaccination. The most successful drug in use is quinine—to protect against fever. Rigid quarantine may modify the fearful epidemic scourges that frequently sweep over the world. Cholera spreads by contact with effluvia, foul air, and is induced by a bad state of the system. Care to avoid effluvia, to secure pure air and a good general state of health, is the best preventive against cholera. Hence, to avoid the coming epidemic, the author argues that the streets should be properly cleaned, wet cellars drained and dried by fire, disinfectants employed; that the body should be washed at least twice a week, flannel underclothing worn with frequent changes, bad food avoided, and, above all, the mind should not be depressed by fear.

"*Spencerian Key to Practical Penmanship.*" Prepared for the "Spencerian authors" by H. C. Spencer. Trison, Phinney, Blakeman & Co., New York. 1866. Pp. 176.

The object of this book, as the title suggests, is to explain the system of penmanship devised by Mr. Platt R. Spencer many years ago. Amid the dreary bombast which abounds in the volume there may be found many valuable hints to those who are acquiring a style of chirography, as well as to instructors in the art. As to the system itself, it is too well known to need special consideration. In general, it is true that every person may be taught to write well, and even handsomely, but, in fact, there is as much individuality in handwriting as in dress, demeanor, manner of speech, and mode of expressing thoughts on paper. Legibility and elegance must, of course, be the first requisites for excellence in penmanship, and if either must be sacrificed, it must be the latter; and the most that a teacher can hope to do is to so direct the natural bent of the pupil as to eliminate inherent faults and inject excellences. Some children write well almost by intuition; others acquire a "good hand," as it is called, only by long practice; and others still never succeed in making anything but ungainly scrawls, always illegible to others, and oftentimes to themselves. These last would confer a favor upon their friends by devoting their spare time to the study of the book before us, and the practice which it enjoins.

We have spoken of individuality in writing. So well recognized is this that we have met people who fancy that they can discover character from hand-writing, and some have attained to no mean skill in the art. That the accountant writes a different hand from that of the minister, and the latter in turn produces a manuscript that no one would mistake for the work of a professional copyist, is a statement that requires no proof. So far as our observation extends editors are the most illegible of penmen, next come lawyers, then ministers. Printers are supposed to be able to decipher any sort of marks on paper, though to others they seem more like Egyptian hieroglyphics than aught else, and this, together with the unavoidable haste in which editors are often compelled to write, furnishes a reason for the illegibility of most manuscripts penned by journalists. Ministers and lawyers, on the other hand, write for their own eyes alone, and hence contract the habit of making all sorts of abbreviations and peculiar characters, which are intelligible to them if to no one else. As business men write for the eyes of others they are pretty sure to aim at legibility, whatever else they may lose sight

of in their penmanship. Autographs afford a fine field for study. Some are bold and clear, like the famous signature of John Hancock to the Declaration of Independence; others are cramped, crooked, ungainly; others still are illegible, as if the writers' object was to conceal rather than show what their names are. This last is very popular with young poets, who look forward to the day when an appreciative posterity will attach some value to their sign-manuals.

To those who are interested in the subject of autographs a collection lying before us as we write would afford a pleasant study. At the head of the list are the signatures of Horace Greeley and William C. Bryant. The former is a perfect counterpart of the appearance of its writer. Every letter is misshapen and in defiance of every known rule of penmanship, and the general effect is that each is trying to run away from its fellows, reminding one of an army demoralized. Mr. Bryant, on the contrary, writes a singularly neat and regular hand; every letter is made with precision and each word is neatly rounded off. For regularity, his signature is equalled only by those of Prof. James Hadley, of Yale College, and George S. Hillard, of Boston. Donald G. Mitchell writes a queer hand, quite legible and very attractive by its uniqueness. The signatures of Bayard Taylor, Parke Godwin, General John A. Dix, Dr. Henry W. Bellows, and Theodore Tilton might pass for those of business men, so clear and bold are they. Henry W. Longfellow, Richard Grant White, T. B. Aldrich, James Parton, James D. Dana, John Savage, George Ticknor, "Barry Gray," and George Bancroft, write "back-handed," each preserving a certain individuality of his own; thus, Longfellow inclines his letters at a greater angle than does White, and most all his marks are curvilinear, imparting a singular grace to his writing. A stranger looking at Prof. Francis Bowen's autograph would not be surprised to learn that it was written by a student of political economy, so regular and uniform are the letters. William Rounseville Alger writes a tremulous hand, in marked contrast with the graceful yet bold chirography of John G. Whittier. Jacob Abbott's signature suggests at once the idea that he had just "set a copy" for a pupil, while that of George William Curtis is as flowing and easy as his style of composition. Henry T. Tuckerman's chirography, too, is an apt rescript of the readiness with which he is supposed to compose. Oliver Wendell Holmes's autograph has no marked characteristic and affords quite a contrast to that of James Russell Lowell (who writes his name J. R. Lowell, however), which would be almost illegible to a person unfamiliar with his name, if such an one can be found among his countrymen. And so we might run through the list if space would permit. We must leave it, however, only regretting that we cannot print fac-similes of all the signatures in these columns, that those of our readers who fancy that the handwriting furnishes an index of character might study them with a view to testing their theories.

LITERARIANA.

AMERICAN.

IN view of the present movement in favor of the passage of a copyright law, the following letter by the late Washington Irving is of considerable interest. It was written to Mr. Lewis Gaylord Clarke, the whilom editor of the "Knickerbocker Magazine," in the winter of 1840, when a similar movement was contemplated, and printed, we presume, at that time. We reprint from the original "copy," which consists of three pages of largish note paper, yellow and torn; the handwriting is neat but not very plain. The postmark on the back is "Tarrytown, Jan. 14th."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE KNICKERBOCKER.

SIR: Having seen it stated, more than once, in the public papers, that I declined subscribing my name to the petition, presented to Congress during a former session, for an act of international copyright, I beg leave, through your pages, to say, in explanation, that I declined not from any hostility or indifference to the object of the petition, in favor of which my sentiments have always been openly expressed, but merely because I did not relish the phraseology of the petition, and because I expected to see the measure pressed from another quar-

ter. I wrote about the same time, however, to members of Congress in support of the application.

As no other petition has been sent to me for signature, and as silence on my part may be misconstrued, I now, as far as my name may be thought of any value, enroll it among those who pray most earnestly to Congress for this act of international equity. I consider it due not merely to foreign authors, to whose lucubrations we are so deeply indebted for constant instruction and delight, but to our own native authors, who are implicated in the effects of the wrong done by our present laws.

For myself, my literary career as an author is drawing to a close, and cannot be much affected by any disposition of this question; but we have a young literature springing up, and daily unfolding itself with wonderful energy and luxuriance, which, as it promises to shed a grace and lustre upon the nation, deserves all its fostering care. How much this growing literature may be retarded by the present state of our copyright law, I had recently an instance in the cavalier treatment of a work of merit, written by an American, who had not yet established a commanding name in the literary market. I undertook, as a friend, to dispose of it for him, but found it impossible to get an offer from any of our principal publishers. They even declined to publish it at the author's cost, alleging that it was not worth their while to trouble themselves about native works, of doubtful success, while they could pick and choose among the successful works daily poured out by the British press, for which they had nothing to pay for copyright.

This simple fact spoke volumes to me, as I trust it will do to all who may peruse these lines. I do not mean to enter into the discussion of a subject that has already been treated so voluminously. I will briefly observe that I have seen few arguments advanced against the proposed act that ought to weigh with intelligent and high-minded men, while I have noticed some that have been urged so sordid and selfish in their nature, and so narrow in the scope of their policy, as almost to be insulting to those to whom they were addressed.

I trust that, whenever this question comes before Congress, it will at once receive an action prompt and decided, and be carried by an overwhelming if not unanimous vote, worthy of an enlightened, a just, and a generous nation. Your obedient servant,

WASHINGTON IRVING.

A CORRESPONDENT, who writes from Princeton, sends us the query below, the answer to which we have forgotten, if we ever knew it, which we doubt:

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ROUND TABLE:

Will you have the kindness to answer the following question; and, if you cannot, please publish it for answer? To whom does the following quotation apply from Tennyson's "Dream of Fair Women," sixty-seventh stanza?

"Morn broadened on the borders of the dark
Ere I saw her who clasped in her last trance
Her murdered father's head."

INQUIRER.

IN addition to the fifteen or twenty volumes which make up the collected edition of his works, the late Washington Irving left materials enough uncollected for two more volumes of the ordinary size. These posthumous writings of his which exist in print in the shape of articles contributed to magazines, home and foreign, are to be edited by Mr. Pierre Irving, his biographer, and published by Messrs. Hurd & Houghton under the title of "Spanish Papers."

MR. EDWARD S. RAND, JR., favorably known as a floriculturist, is about to publish through Messrs. Tilton & Co. a new volume, entitled "The Culture of Hardy Plants." It will be illustrated by a number of floral drawings from the pencil of Mr. Hammatt Billings, of Boston.

MESSRS. LEYPOLDT & HOLT, the American publishers of the Tauchnitz edition of "British Authors," have lately added to their list a number of late English publications, which are not likely to be reprinted in this country. Chiefest among them are Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton's last volume of verse, "The Lost Tales of Miletus," of which we gave a specimen or two a few weeks since; "Faith Unwin's Ordeal," by Georgiana M. Craik; "Madame Fontenoy," by the author of "Mademoiselle Mori"; "Love's Conflict," by Mrs. Ross Church, *née* Frances Marryatt, a daughter of the sea novelist; and "Maxwell Drewett," by F. G. Trafford, the author of "George Geith," a novelist of remarkable power. The popularity of this favorite series is steadily on the increase in this country, large editions of its most popular volumes being sold at once.

MR. J. W. BOUTON, of this city, has secured a number of copies of Gilchrist's "Life of William Blake," a unique and expensive work which was published in England, in 1863, and attracted a great deal of notice, recalling attention as it did to the memory of a neglected man

of genius. Who Blake was, and what he accomplished, both as an artist and a poet, no one well versed in the art and poetry of the last seventy or eighty years, need to be told. In both he was a most undoubted original, working after his own methods, which were diametrically opposed to those of his time. How beautiful, for instance, is this little childish pastoral, originally published in 1789, in his "Songs of Innocence:"

"Piping down the valleys wild,
Piping songs of pleasant glee,
On a cloud I saw a child,
And he, laughing, said to me:

"Pipe a song about a lamb,"
So I piped with merry cheer:
'Piper, pipe that song again,'
So I piped: he wept to hear.

"Drop thy pipe, thy happy pipe,
Sing thy songs of happy cheer,'
So I sang the same again,
While he wept with joy to hear.

"Piper, sit thee down and write,
In a book, that all may read,'
So he vanished from my sight,
And I plucked a hollow reed,

"And I made a rural pen,
And I stained the water clear,
And I wrote my happy songs,
Every child may joy to hear."

Very different is this strange poem, published five years later, in the "Songs of Experience." It recalls the elemental sympathy, the feeling of the cosmical universe which underlies so much that Mr. Emerson has written:

"Hear the voice of the bard,
Who present, past, and future sees;
Whose ears have heard
The Holy Word,
That walked among the ancient trees;

"Calling the lapsed soul,
And weeping in the evening dew;
That might control
The starry pole,
And fallen, fallen light renew.

"O earth! O earth! return!
Arise from out the dewy grass!
Night is worn,
And the morn
Rises from a slumberous mass.

"Turn away no more—
Why wilt thou turn away?
The starry floor,
The watery shore
Is given thee till the break of day."

The "Life of Blake" is in two large octavo volumes, profusely illustrated from Blake's own designs, which are without a parallel in the history of art; few are agreeable, but most of them—particularly those which illustrate the "Book of Job"—are full of power and terror. Mr. Bouton's prices are about one-third less than the original cost of importation at the time of publication, ranging from ten dollars in cloth to fifteen dollars in half morocco.

We have to record this week the death of Jared Sparks, LL.D., who died of pneumonia at his residence in Cambridge, Mass., on the 14th of March, in the seventy-seventh year of his age. Mr. Sparks was born at Willington, Conn., May 10, 1789. A poor boy, he worked for his own support from the time he was old enough to do so, agriculturally and mechanically, until he was able by teaching and otherwise to fit himself for college. He finished his preparatory studies at Phillips Exeter Academy, and entered Harvard College in 1811, where he graduated in 1815. He then began the study of divinity at the Cambridge School, and, two years later, returned to Harvard, where he filled the office of tutor of mathematics until 1819, when he was ordained as minister of the Unitarian Church at Baltimore. Alone among the clergymen of that city in his advocacy of Unitarianism, his preaching attracted much attention and excited the opposition of his more orthodox brethren. Not long after he received the appointment of chaplain to Congress, which was something of an honor considering the novelty and unfashionableness of his creed. In 1820 he published "The Ritual and Doctrines of the Episcopal Church," and the succeeding year commenced a monthly periodical, "The Unitarian Miscellany," which he edited during his residence in Baltimore, being himself its largest contributor. He commenced in its pages a controversy with Dr. Miller, of Princeton, on "The Comparative Moral Tendency of the Trinitarian and Unitarian Doctrines," the substance of which, consisting of letters, was collected in a volume and published in 1823. He also edited a "Collection of Essays and Tracts in Theology," which was completed in six volumes in 1826. He had previously resigned his pastoral charge on account of ill health, and, purchasing the "North American Review," of which he was one of the original founders, he edited that solid periodical for seven years. In 1828 he published his "Life of John

Jedyard," the American traveler, the materials for which were mostly drawn from unpublished sources. The same year he made a visit to Europe, in pursuance of a plan which he had formed of publishing the writings of Washington, with notes and illustrations, and resided there a twelvemonth, spending the time in the examination of documents in the public offices of London and Paris. The Washington papers, with a life of the writer, were published between 1834 and 1837 in twelve octavo volumes. While engaged in the preparation of this great work, Mr. Sparks published "The Diplomatic Correspondence of the American Revolution," in twelve volumes; and "The Life of Gouverneur Morris, with Selections from his Correspondence," in three volumes. In 1834 he commenced a "Library of American Biography," in two series, one of ten volumes, 1834-8; and one of fifteen volumes, 1844-8. During this period, in 1840, appeared "The Works of Benjamin Franklin," in ten volumes. Mr. Sparks then made a second visit to Europe, and during his researches in the French archives discovered the Red-Line Map which afterwards became so famous in connection with the Webster-Ashburton treaty. Mr. Sparks was professor of history in Harvard College from 1839 to 1849, and president of the same institution from 1849 to 1852. The last of his historical works, "Correspondence of the American Revolution," in four volumes, was published in 1854. The historical library of Mr. Sparks, a collection containing many curious and valuable books, was presented by him during his lifetime to Harvard College.

FOREIGN.

It is to be regretted that so little is known of the private life of Mr. Thomas Love Peacock, whose death we noted last week, for portions of it must have been interesting. We have nothing to add to the few facts already given except that Mr. Peacock was, at one time, a clerk in the India House, like Charles Lamb, and that, like Lamb, he retired on a pension, shortly before the company was deprived of its political powers.

Mr. Peacock's earliest work—the earliest, at least, of which we have heard—was a volume of verse, entitled "The Genius of the Thames, Palmyra, and Other Poems." It was published before "The Philosophy of Melancholy," which was published in 1812, his twenty-sixth year, a large quarto, as was the fashion then, elegantly printed by Bulmer, at the famous *Shakespeare Press*, for T. Hookham, Jr., and a number of firms, one of which was John Ballantyne, of Edinburgh. Mr. Hookham, the publisher, was a friend of Shelley's, who wrote him several letters at this time, in one of which, under the date of August, 1812, he speaks of Mr. Peacock and his poems. "I shall take the liberty," he says, "of returning the two poems which you have sent me, and only regret that my powers are so circumscribed as to prevent me from becoming extensively useful to your friend. The poems abound with a genius, an information, the power and extent of which I admire in proportion as I lament the object of their application. Mr. Peacock conceives that commerce is property; that the glory of the British flag is the happiness of the British people; that George III., so far from having been a warrior and a tyrant, has been a patriot. To me it appears otherwise; and I have rigidly accustomed myself not to be seduced by the loveliest eloquence or the sweetest strains to regard with intellectual toleration that which ought not to be tolerated by those who love liberty, truth, and virtue. I mean not to say that Mr. Peacock does not love them; but I do mean to say that he regards those means instrumental to their progress which I regard instrumental to their destruction. (See 'Genius of the Thames,' pp. 24, 26, 28, 76, 98.) At the same time, I am free to say that the poem appears to be far beyond me, diocrity in genius and versification, and the conclusion of 'Palmyra' the finest piece of poetry I ever read. I have not had time to read the 'Philosophy of Melancholy,' and of course am only half acquainted with that genius and those powers whose application I should consider myself rash and impertinent in criticising did I not conceive that frankness and justice demand it." The seriousness of this criticism on such a trifle as, without doubt, the poem was, occasions a smile, till we remember that the writer was Shelley, and that he had only just completed his twentieth year. We have no especial wish to read "Palmyra" now, in spite of Shelley's praise, having lately read "The Philosophy of Melancholy," which belongs to the class of poems on abstract themes of which the "Pleasures of Hope" and "Memory" are the most successful. It is written in Popeian heroics, which are so easy to read and so difficult to remember. The "Notes" ("Tray, Blanche, and Sweetheart, little dogs and all," wrote notes to their verses fifty years ago) are the most

readable things in the volume, which is about fifteen inches high by twelve inches broad. "Rhododaphne" is much better, partly because it contains a story, and partly because it is not written in heroics. The subject is classical (or intended to be such, in a moderately romantic way), the scene being laid in Thessaly, and the fable the story of a young Greek who succumbed to the enchantments of the sorceress, Rhododaphne, who may be supposed to be the embodiment of the rose-laurel. The story is pretty in conception and fluently handled, the versification deserving the praise which Poe bestowed upon it, viz., that it was "brimful of music." Here is a specimen from the first canto:

"Flowers may die on many a stem:
Fruits may fall from many a tree:
Not the more for loss of them
Shall this fair world a desert be:
Thou on every grove will see
Fruits and flowers enough for thee.
Stranger! I with thee will share
The votive fruits and flowers there,
Rich in fragrance, fresh in bloom;
These may find a happier doom:
If they change not, fade not now,
Deem that Love accepts thy vow."

Here is a song sung by the enchantress in a pirate's bark:

"The Nereid's home is calm and bright,
The ocean depths below,
Where liquid streams of emerald light
Through caves of coral flow.
She has a lyre of silver strings
Framed on a pearly shell,
And sweetly to that lyre she sings
The shipwrecked seaman's knell."

"The ocean-snake in sleep she binds,
The dolphins round her play:
His purple conch the Triton winds
Responsive to the lay:
Proteus and Phorcys, sea-gods old,
Watch by her coral cell,
To hear on watery echoes rolled,
The shipwrecked seaman's knell."

Graceful and sweet, but hardly to be compared, as a piece of classicism, to the "Hymn to Pan" in "Endymion," which must have been written about the same time, the preface to the poem being dated April 10, 1818. Keats, however, was a born Grecian, as well as a poet, while Mr. Peacock was not. A pleasure-palace in the sixth canto of "Rhododaphne" recalls the enchanted palace in "Lamia," of which it may have been the prototype, though it is probable that both Keats and Mr. Peacock were alike indebted to Philostratus's "De Vita Apollonii," as quoted by old Burton in his "Anatomy of Melancholy."

Of Mr. Peacock's novels, "Headlong Hall" and "Nightmare Abbey," we have already spoken, though briefly. We said nothing, however, of the verses scattered through them, and as these show Mr. Peacock's talent to more advantage than anything we have quoted from "Rhododaphne," we will quote a couple of songs. The following airy drinking-catch is from "Headlong Hall":

SONG.

In his last bin Sir Peter lies,
Who knew not what it was to frown;
Death took him mellow, by surprise,
And in his cellar stopped him down.
Through all our land we could not boast
A knight more gay, more prompt than he
To rise and fill a bumper toast,
And pass it round with "Three times three!"

None better knew the feast to sway,
Or keep mirth's boat in better trim;
For nature had but little clay
Like that of which she molded him.
The meanest guest that graced his board
Was there the freest of the free,
His bumper toast when Peter poured
And passed it round with "Three times three!"

He kept at true good humor's mark
The social flow of pleasure's tide;
He never made a brow look dark,
Nor caused a tear but when he died.
No sorrow round his tomb should dwell;
More pleased his gay old ghost would be,
For funeral song and passing bell,
To hear no sound but "Three times three!"

The couplet in italics is admirable, as exquisite, indeed, in its way as the lines of the old poet who, singing the praises of his lady, says:

"I think nature hath lost the mold
Where she her shape did take."

"Nightmare Abbey" furnishes a companion piece:

SONG.

Seamen three! What men be ye?
Gotham's three wise men be we.
Whither in your bowl so free?
To rake the moon from out the sea.

The bowl goes trim. The moon doth shine;
And our ballast is old wine;
And your ballast is old wine.

Who art thou so fast adrift?
I am he they call Old Care;
Then on board we will thee lift.
No; I may not enter there.
Wherefore so? 'Tis Jove's decree,
In a bowl Care may not be;
In a bowl Care may not be.

Fear ye not the waves that roll?
No; in charmed boat we swim.
What the charm that floats the bowl?
Water may not pass the brim.
The bowl goes trim. The moon doth shine;
And our ballast is old wine;
And your ballast is old wine.

The flavor of that suggests the lyrics of Barry Cornwall, the finest English lyricist since the days of the Elizabethan poets.

SOME of the best things in Dean Milman's late volume of translations from the Greek poets are his versions of the minor pieces of the pastoral poets, a comparatively narrow but beautiful walk, in which his genius moves with ease and spirit. The following trifle, in its felicitous simplicity, recalls the translations of the first half of the seventeenth century; those of Stanley, for instance, whose version of Anacreon, free as it is, is yet the best that has been made in English:

"Drink the glad wine with me,
With me spend youth's gay hours;
Or a sighing lover be,
Or crown thy brow with flowers.
When I am merry and mad,
Merry and mad be you;
When I am sober and sad,
Be sad and sober too."

Equally excellent are a few lines from a lively comic song by Teleclides, a playwright of the time of Pericles:

"Every ditch with wine is flowing,
Loaves and cakes around us fight,
Each our dainty palate wooing,
Boasting each its purer white.
To our kitchens troop the fish,
Haste themselves to boil and fry,
Lay them down upon the dish,
And to the smoking table lie.
Flows of broth a savory tide,
Round our couches bubbling still;
And little rills of sauces glide,
In smooth meanders, where we will."

AN interesting volume of African travel will shortly be published in Germany, compiled from the papers of the late Wilhelm von Harnier, who, in 1860, visited Africa and explored the countries between Chartum and Zanzibar. The title of the volume, which is to be a fine quarto with colored illustrations, is "Reise am Oberen Nil." Dr. A. Petermann, the geographer, furnishes the preface.

THE French, who have taken kindly of late years to English institutions, among others the P. R., which they call *Le Box*, are about to have a new sporting journal, entitled *Le Derby*. It will be edited by M. Leon Bertrand, and will have a good corps of contributors, among others Leon Gozlan, and Alexandre Dumas, the younger.

THE second volume of the "Life of Caesar," which was said to be nearly ready for publication, is delayed to allow the imperial writer to make further changes therein. It will contain the war with the Gauls.

SOME idea of the extraordinary number of sermons annually preached in England may be gathered from the following bit of statistics on the subject, made by Dean Ramsey. "Taking," he says, "the clergy list of the Church of England for 1864, I find 260 pages—on an average there are seventy churches or chapels on each page. This gives 18,200 places of worship for the Establishment. The Dissenting places of worship, of all denominations, it is said, are equal in number with those of the church; but say they are 2,000 less. This would give us 16,200 places of worship more. Then from the 'Edinburgh Almanack' we find the Established Church of Scotland, with its sixteen synods and eighty-four Presbyteries, to contain 1,235 places of worship. The Free Church, with sixteen synods and seventy-one Presbyteries, about 985. Dissenters of all persuasions from the Scottish Established Church (United Presbyterian Associate Synod, Independents, Baptists, Roman Catholics, Episcopalians) may be taken, I am informed, at 900, making a total of 37,520 churches in Great Britain. Now, in some of these one sermon only is preached. In a good many three are preached, and in most two. So that giving two weekly sermons to each would be a fair and perhaps a low average. This makes 75,040 sermons delivered every Sabbath day in the churches of Great Britain alone, or the enormous number of 3,902,080—i.e., nearly four millions of sermons during the year."

THE next number of the "Temple Bar" will contain

the experiences of a regular "casual," who happened to be in the Lambeth shed the night that Mr. Greenwood stayed there. So it is said, though it would not surprise us if the paper in question should be a clever squib by Mr. George Augustus Sala.

SOME idea of the business done in England in circulating libraries, and the money realized thereby, may be gathered from the report of the directors of Mudie's Select Library Company, which places the balance resulting from last year's trading at over seven thousand pounds, which amount pays the shareholders at the rate of seven and a half per cent. on their investments—an enormous rate of interest for England.

PERSONAL.

"THE COUNTRY PARSON" has a paper in the March number of "Fraser" entitled "Concerning Beards: being Thoughts on Progress, specially in Scotland."

MR. MATTHEW ARNOLD contributes to the March number of the "Cornhill" the first portion of an article on "The Study of Celtic Literature."

MRS. CHARLES, the author of the "Schönberg Cotta Family," is publishing a new story in "The Family Treasury" entitled "The Draytons and the Davenants: being the Personal Recollections of Mrs. Olive Drayton, of the Fen Country."

MR. JAMES GREENWOOD, the writer of "A Night in the Workhouse," is publishing a series of sketches, under the name of "Starlight Readings," in the *Evening Star*.

MR. GEORGE AUGUSTUS SALA has a paper on Glasgow in the March number of "Temple Bar Magazine."

MRS. HENRY WOOD commences a new novel in the April number of "Temple Bar."

M. ALEXANDER DUMAS, the elder, has lately finished a new play, which will shortly be produced at the Gaîté. Its title is "Gabriel Lambert."

M. EMILE GIRARDIN has withdrawn from the editorial chair of *La Presse*, which has lately received two official "warnings."

M. GLAIS BIZOIN is the writer of a new play which is well spoken of, "Un Duel en Trois Parties."

M. EMILE AUGIER's new play, "Le Baron d'Estignault," is now being played at the Odéon.

MR. HEPWORTH DIXON, of the *Athenæum*, is engaged to furnish a descriptive and historical account of the Tower of London for the Archeological Congress.

THE last steamer brings us news of the death of the Rev. Dr. Whewell, master of Trinity College, Cambridge. Born of humble parentage, at Lancaster, in 1794, he became a pupil of the Free Grammar School of his native town, and in due course entered Trinity College, where, in 1828, he was elected professor of mineralogy, a post which he filled for ten years, when he was elected to the chair of moral philosophy. In 1841 he was nominated to the mastership. Dr. Whewell was a voluminous writer, chiefly on moral philosophy, political economy, and mathematics. His chief works are, "A History of the Inductive Sciences;" "The Philosophy of the Inductive Sciences," since expanded into "The History of Scientific Ideas;" "Novum Organum Renovatum;" "The Philosophy of Discovery;" "The Elements of Morality, including Polity;" the "Bridgewater Treatise on Astronomy;" "Notes on the Architecture of the German Churches;" "Lectures on the History of Moral Philosophy in England;" "Lectures on Systematic Morality;" "Indications of the Creator," an answer to "The Vestiges of Creation," besides many educational mathematical works. He also translated Goethe's Pastoral of "Hermann and Dorothea," Auerbach's "Professor's Wife," Grotius on the "Rights of War and Peace," and three volumes of a translation of Plato, under the title of "The Platonic Dialogues for English Readers." Rumor likewise attributed to his pen "The Plurality of Worlds," an anonymous book which made considerable sensation at the time of its publication.

LISZT, having sent to Rome, lately, a gift of 20,000 francs, as a contribution to the Peter's Pence, has received the following letter from Cardinal Antonelli:

"MONSIEUR THE COMMANDER:

"In accordance with the desire expressed in your estimable communication, I have made it my duty to place at the feet of our Holy Father the generous offering which you have placed at our disposal on the occasion of the necessitous circumstances in which the state is placed at this moment. The Holy Father is very sensible of the sentiments of respect and affection which you have manifested toward the august chief of our holy religion, and he has deigned to accept, with his ordinary goodness, your generous offering of 20,000 francs as a testimony of

your devotion to the Holy Chair. He greets you, on this occasion, with his apostolic benediction. I am happy, monsieur, that this circumstance procures me the pleasure of praying you to accept the assurance of the profound esteem with which I subscribe myself, your devoted servant,
G. CARD. ANTONELLI."

DESMOND RYAN, the musical critic of the London *Morning Herald*, has brought a libel suit against Mr. Wood, proprietor of the *Orchestra* newspaper. The defendant declared in his paper that the plaintiff took bribes for favorable notices of various artists, and characterized him as "a highwayman of the press." The trial brought out some curious developments of literary and musical life. Ryan obtained £250 damages.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

MESSRS. HURD & HOUGHTON announce "Sermons," by Robert South, D.D.

MR. C. B. RICHARDSON has in the press "The Army of the Potomac," by William Swinton.

MESSRS. LEYPOLDT & HOLT will shortly publish "Materials for Translating English into French," by Dr. Emile Otto; and "The Lost Tales of Miletus," by Sir E. B. Lytton.

MR. W. J. WIDDLETON has in preparation "Comparative Physiognomy," by J. W. Redfield; and "Lays of the Scottish Cavaliers," by W. E. Aytoun.

MR. FREDERICK A. BRADY has nearly ready, "Ben Buntline," by Sir A. Fisher; "Discipline," by Mrs. Mary Brunton; "Fernley Manor," by Mrs. Mackenzie Daniels; "Thornton, or the Younger Brother;" "Love and Ambition;" "The Three Brothers," and "Fanny Hervey, or the Mother's Choice."

MR. JAMES MILLER announces "On Prayer," by the Rev. Dr. Buckminster; and "A Cookery Book," by Mrs. S. S. Ellis.

MESSRS. MASON BROTHERS will soon publish a "Report to the Committee on the Conduct of the War," by General B. F. Butler.

MESSRS. ROBERT CARTER & BROTHERS have nearly ready "An Examination of J. S. Mill's Philosophy: being a Defense of Fundamental Truth," by James McCosh, LL.D., and Vol. IV. of D'Aubigne's "History of the Reformation in the Time of Calvin."

MR. D. VAN NOSTRAND has in preparation "The Battle-Fields of Virginia (Chancellorsville) embracing the operations of the Army of Northern Virginia, from the Battle of Fredericksburg to the Death of Lieutenant-General S. J. Jackson," by Jed Hotchkiss and William Allan, illustrated with maps and portraits; "Electro-Ballistic Machines and the Schultz Chronoscope," by Brevet Lieut-Col. S. V. Bevé; "Pook's Method of Comparing the Lines and Draughting Vessels propelled by Sail or Steam; including a chapter on Laying-off on the Mold-Loft Floor," by Samuel M. Pook, naval constructor; "Luce's Seamanship, compiled from various authorities, and illustrated with numerous original and selected designs, for the use of the United States Naval Academy," by S. B. Luce, Lieutenant-Commander U. S. N.; and "Brooklyn Water-works, containing a descriptive account of the Construction of the Works, and also Reports on the Brooklyn, Hartford, Belleville, and Cambridge Pumping Engines."

MESSRS. TICKNOR & FIELDS will soon publish "Leighton Court," by Henry Kingsley; and "The True History of a Ragamuffin," by James Greenwood.

MR. A. K. LORING has just ready, "Broken to Harms," "Running the Gauntlet" by Edmund Yates.

THE Rev. Edward Meyrick Goulburn, D.D., will shortly publish "The Acts of the Deacons," a commentary upon the notices of St. Stephen and St. Philip the Evangelist contained in the Acts of the Apostles.

ART.

THE STUDIOS.

THE exhibition of the National Academy of Design is to be opened on the fifteenth of April, and the artists are hard at work upon the pictures intended by them for the galleries. It is possible that some of the leading names in art, here, will not be represented at the approaching exhibition. Some artists, who have been at work upon large and important pictures for the past year—Bierstadt, for example—have already placed their works on show in some of the public galleries. Not a few of the artists prefer having their works thus exhibited, on the ground that they are more likely to attract attention in a small

gallery than they would in a collection so large as that brought together at the annual exhibition of the Academy. Dealers are more tractable than "hanging committees" with regard to the arrangement of pictures, it being their interest to set off a good work to the best advantage. It is to be hoped that there will be fewer portraits at this year's exhibition than have hitherto crowded the walls. A stir has been given to American art by the numerous importations of foreign pictures that have marked the past season. The artists do not make a grievance of this; on the contrary, a certain amount of benefit accrues to them from the presence of these works from beyond the sea. Many of these works do not stand favorable comparison with pictures painted by the best of our native artists; but, where they are of real excellence, careful study of them excites emulation, and they supply, to a certain extent, the attractions associated with European travel.

Among the landscape painters Regis Gignoux has been one of the most popular here for several years past. This artist has just completed a very large and important picture for the approaching exhibition. It is an upright picture—a composition of Alpine scenery, with snow-capped mountains and wreathing mists. The atmospheric effects of the mountain region are very happily rendered, and, so far as color goes, especially, we think that this is, perhaps, the best picture that Mr. Gignoux has yet painted.

S. R. Gifford has on his easel a very fine landscape, with twilight effects. Autumnal tints are blended here with a skill that moderates the glare by which pictures of American fall scenery are too often marked.

Jarvis McEntee is hard at work on a picture of mountain scenery, which he may possibly have ready in time for the exhibition. He has lately completed a large landscape, a composition of his favorite subject of the sad days when autumn begins to merge into winter. The study of the tree forms in this picture is exquisite, as is the transparency of the shingly brook in the foreground. This picture will be on exhibition in the galleries of the National Academy.

In the studio of W. J. Hennessy we saw a very touching picture which the artist calls "In Memoriam." It is a small full-length portrait of a lady now deceased, and is treated in a very novel and artistic manner. The shadowy, angelic appearance of the figure in its white drapery has nothing of earth about it, and the surroundings are of a mystery in keeping with this sentiment. The same artist has in progress, and also intended for the exhibition, a picture called by him "Through the Shadows." It is a twilight piece—a boat drifting idly down a river, two young girls in the boat, and a rower who heeds not his oars, but lies in an easy attitude along the thwarts.

SALES OF IMPORTED PICTURES.

AT the sale of Mr. S. P. Avery's foreign pictures, which took place at the Düsseldorf gallery the week before last, the prices realized were not, generally, what may be termed extravagant. That very showy picture, by Wappers, entitled "Italia," was bought by Mr. Miner for \$500. We have no great admiration for the picture in question, which is conventional and melodramatic to excess, but Wappers has a certain reputation, and it is not often that a *magnum opus* of his goes for so small a price. But a cheaper picture than "Italia," to our way of thinking, was Tissot's "Duel," bought by Mr. Eaton for \$1,275. Of the school to which it belongs, and of which Tissot is a leading spirit, this picture is one of the best we have seen in a long while. "First Sorrow," by Meyer von Bremen, is far from extravagantly transferred to Mr. A. T. Stewart for \$710, while "The Twins," by Verboeckhoven, obtained full value, or more, at the \$300 which brought it to book. "Returning from the Christening," a large and very expressive picture, by Lanfant de Metz, brought \$1,350, and may be considered a good bargain at the figure. Many of the lesser pictures, and of the sketches in water-color and pencil, brought prices which are decidedly matter of congratulation to their purchasers.

On the evenings of Thursday and Friday, the 15th and 16th of March, the collection of pictures sent out by Messrs. Gambart, of London, was brought to the hammer at the Studio Buildings, in Tenth Street. The prices realized for these works were generally fair. The "Zealand Wedding Feast," by Dillens, went for \$975—a figure not one too much for it. The "Syrian Girl," by Portaels, brought \$420—a mere bagatelle in currency for so fine a picture. Verboeckhoven's "Flemish Sheep" brought more than its value at \$1,750. There is a fashion in things here, and one of them is to pay high prices for Verboeckhoven's pictures.

established custom with men so little given to changes of opinion as are farmers. They are the most prejudiced class of men in the country, and this by reason of the nature of their occupation and the crude ideas which have for centuries surrounded it. These might be dispelled in good measure with vigor and reform at the national center, and to better purpose than can ever be done by agricultural colleges. But when we consider that we are retrograding rather than advancing; that, through individual weakness, a national blessing is becoming—if it has not already become—a national burlesque; and that the great pouches of seeds and plants and cuttings which are sent broadcast over the land under congressional franks are of little value to anybody, and oftentimes perfectly worthless, we cannot but feel that it is time for a complete reform in the management of this important department.

So far as persons are concerned, we care little or nothing who shall control the Bureau of Agriculture. All we say is, that if a country made up of agricultural wealth so largely as ours is cannot have a more respectable department than that which now unworthily seeks to represent the interests of farmers, we hope it will be wholly and at once abandoned. It is but a farce at best. No other department of national interest could be conducted so shamefully without inciting contempt and ridicule on every side. Every farmers' club, every agricultural society, in the land ought to protest against it. A committee ought to be charged with the especial duty of overhauling its affairs. If it should be so investigated we believe it would be a matter of contempt from Maine to Texas. There are men of the right stamp to take the lead in a bureau of agriculture who would bring honor to the country, and who would soon place this department beside the other departments in value and importance. These men should be called to Washington before the interests of agriculture have suffered too much. And if it was ours to make the selection of the man of men to take charge of this great department, we should look nowhere else than to "Edgewood" and its accomplished farmer, Donald G. Mitchell, Esq.

A TIMELY MEMORIAL.

THERE has been placed in our hands a very important memorial to Congress from a number of leading American authors praying that body that the revenue laws, "so far as they relate to the manufacture of books, may be so revised and modified that American publications may be relieved from the heavy burdens now resting upon them and from the disadvantages under which they suffer in comparison with imported books." The petition sets forth briefly and clearly that books can be made in England for less than half the money that it costs to make them in this country, and can be sold here for less than American publications after the existing rate of tariff upon them is paid; and that "the manufacture of books in the United States is very heavily burdened by first taxing all the materials of which they are composed and then the book itself when completed and sold, including a tax on the copyright." At the head of the list of signatures are the names of William C. Bryant and Horace Greeley, the latter prefaced with this note: "I am in favor of a large increase of the duty on imported books, but not of any measure whatever to reduce our internal revenue until we shall have returned to specie payments." This, of course, is in direct opposition to the plea set forth in the memorial, and, we are glad to say, is not indorsed by a single signer to the paper. On the contrary, several have been at pains to express their approval of the note which Mr. R. H. Stoddard prefixed to his name, viz: "Not in favor of heavy duties on English books, but of relieving our own of their present burdens." Mr. George Ticknor goes still farther, and wishes "the extending of the reduction to books in all languages." From the long list of signers to this memorial we select, almost at random, the following names: John A. Dix, Bayard Taylor, Jacob Abbott, Richard Grant White, James Parton, Henry T. Tuckerman, Charles L. Brace, Gulian C. Verplanck, Donald G. Mitchell, Henry W. Longfellow, James Russell Lowell, Francis Bowen, A. P. Peabody, Oliver Wendell Holmes,

George S. Hillard, E. P. Whipple, John G. Palfrey, T. B. Aldrich, Noah Porter, George P. Fisher, Parke Godwin, John W. Draper, Theodore D. Woolsey, Asa Gray, John S. C. Abbott, George William Curtis, Jeremiah Day, George Bancroft, Samuel Osgood, Henry W. Bellows, Fanny Barrow ("Aunt Fanny"), Alice Cary, Phoebe Cary, Elizabeth Stoddard, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Julia Ward Howe. These are only a small portion of the names affixed to the petition, yet they suffice to show the character of the persons who are in favor of this movement.

The importance of the matter to which this memorial pertains, we presume no intelligent person will gainsay. It is a notorious fact that our authors and publishers are suffering, daily, from the disadvantageous competition with foreign publishers in which they are placed by our revenue laws. Were it simply asked that these people should obtain relief individually, the memorial might pass without notice, for there is not a man or woman in the land but finds the present high rate of taxation onerous in a greater or less degree. Some few instances there may be of persons walking up to the tax collector with a smiling face and paying their taxes with uncontrollable joviality; but the great majority are not so gifted. The fact is, we have incurred a tremendous national debt to accomplish a most noble end, and, that end having been attained, the money owed is to be paid. Each person has to pay his or her share, and if, now and then, a voice of grumbling is heard, it should excite neither surprise nor commiseration. But the prayer of the authors in this memorial involves no such considerations. It simply asks Congress to take such action as will put American publications at least on an equal footing with those of foreign manufacture. What can be more just, what more worthy of attention?

Two ways there are of attaining this end. One, which Mr. Greeley urges, is to increase the duties on imported books so that they cannot compete in price with American publications; the other, which the memorial looks to, and which we presume most of the signers thereto advocate, is to lessen the taxation on books printed and published in this country. Of the two we much prefer the latter. Holding that every measure which cheapens literature is a positive benefit, in that it increases by so much its field, we cordially indorse the object which this petition seeks to gain. To tax knowledge is to set a premium upon ignorance, and this is just what the present heavy taxation upon books tends to accomplish. Let the duties on imported books remain as they are, if necessary, but, by all means, remove a portion of the burdens now resting upon those of home manufacture.

It is a matter of easy demonstration that such heavy taxes or duties may be imposed upon articles as to defeat the very object of the imposition by restricting their sale to the rich alone; and granting that the government might in this way derive the desired amount of revenue, it may well be questioned whether the better policy would not be to place the tax at a lower figure in order to increase the sale of the article, and thus, in the end, obtain the same revenue. This latter policy is now advocated by the leading political economists of the world. Peculiarly applicable is this policy to literature. Authors and publishers must, of course, bear their share of the national debt; but when the purchase of books is made a luxury an impediment is set to the diffusion of knowledge. If this be good policy, we own that we are too blind to see it. But it is not good policy. Books are more and more of a necessity as civilization advances, and it should be the aim of every wise government to encourage literature as thereby increasing the intelligence of its subjects.

In addition to what has been advanced, we hold that the national treasury will be the gainer in the end by putting the rate of taxation on books at such a figure as will place them within the reach of the largest number of readers. There are thousands of persons in the country to-day to whom most books are a luxury because of their high cost, but who crave them as a mental necessity. Particularly true is this of the people of the southern states. Can any one doubt, then, that every consideration demands that literature be relieved of some of the burden now

imposed upon it in order that its field may be enlarged and, as a natural sequence, the revenue derived therefrom increased? We ask no special privileges for authors or publishers, but, in behalf of the millions who read and reflect, we ask that our legislators will afford all due facility for the diffusion of knowledge by reducing the present heavy taxation on books, in full confidence that such a policy will not only increase the intelligence of the people, but will add materially to the national revenue. Hence we indorse the memorial.

A CONVERSATION ON CONTRACTION.

QUESTION. What is meant by contracting the currency?

ANSWER. It is to make the greenback dollar now selling for 74 cents, or thereabouts, equal to the par of gold, or 100 cents.

Q. How is this to be done?

A. By reducing the volume of currency afloat so as to make what is left more valuable.

Q. What are the methods proposed to effect the reduction?

A. To fund the redundant currency in long bonds, or else destroy a sufficient number of greenback dollars when they are paid into the United States treasury for taxes.

Q. Who will suffer by contraction according to either of those methods?

A. The poor, the debtor class, all who own goods or are engaged in productive enterprises.

Q. Who will be benefited by contraction?

A. Moses Taylor, Daniel Drew, August Belmont, Cornelius Vanderbilt, the great banks and bankers, the money-lenders, and the creditor class generally.

Q. How do you prove that?

A. Because these last own the bulk of the currency of the country. There is, for example, nine hundred million dollars (\$900,000,000) paper money of all kinds afloat or hoarded. At least six hundred millions (\$600,000,000) of this is in the hands of the banks, bankers, speculators, and money-lenders generally. The poor never hold more currency than will pay for their small current expenses, the debtor class do not hold it or they would not be in debt, while the farmer and merchant have their wealth in products or goods.

Q. Contraction, then, is literally a scheme to make the rich richer and the poor poorer?

A. Yes, that is what it practically results in; though it would be more accurate to describe it as a scheme by which the producing classes are forced to make good the difference between the paper and gold dollar—that is, to add twenty-six cents or thereabouts to the value of every greenback or national bank dollar.

Q. But cannot this be done without loss to any one?

A. No; it is not possible to create something out of nothing. If a fixed proportion of the greenbacks are destroyed, taxes must be laid upon the whole community to carry on the government; if they are converted into long bonds, these last are a loan upon the productive industry of the country until paid, principal and interest; in either case the community is called upon to pay the difference between the paper and gold dollar without equivalent from the wealthy owners of those paper dollars.

Q. How does contraction affect the business community?

A. It is ruinous to them. It compels them to sell cheaper than they buy.

Q. How will it affect the manufacturing and laboring classes?

A. It stops production because of the constant tendency to lower prices, throws workmen out of employment, and finally creates an artificial scarcity.

Q. But is not a return to specie payments desirable?

A. Yes. Every legitimate interest in the country suffers from the present uncertainty. We should return at once to specie payments, and there is but one way to do it.

Q. And that is?—

A. REPEAL THE LEGAL TENDER ACT.

SKETCHES OF THE PUBLISHERS.

A. S. BARNES & CO.

II.

IN 1853 was published the first volume of the "National Geographical Series," by Monteith and McNally. It was the "Youth's Manual of Geography," by James Monteith, being No. 3 of a series of four, of which Nos. 1 and 2 were by him, issued respectively in 1855 and 1857, and No. 4 by Francis McNally, issued in 1853. These four works, in less than twelve years, have sold to the extent of 2,146,794 volumes. Their sale in 1865 was 300,000 volumes, and, owing to the many and necessarily slow processes through which a school geography must pass (on account of its colored maps, etc.), it is estimated that the sale of at least 20,000 copies was lost by the inability of the publishers to manufacture them fast enough to supply the demand.

The only parallel to this extraordinary success is found in that of the "National Series of School Readers and Spellers," by Parker and Watson, the first of which was issued in 1857, and was followed by others at short intervals until 1859, making the series complete in eight volumes. Up to the present time their total sale has been 1,874,407 volumes, of which 425,000 volumes were sold during 1865 alone. "Beers's System of Penmanship," in twelve numbers, prepared by a teacher of one of our ward schools, promises to be among the most popular of any series published by this house.

Boyd's "Annotated English Poets," including Milton, Cowper, Thomson, Young, and Pollok, and designed as text-books for academies and schools, were issued in 1852, and attained a large sale.

Among the other common school-books of this house are the following, mostly of recent date, but becoming quite popular: Porter's "Principles of Chemistry," by the professor of that science at Yale College; Peck's "Ganot's Natural Philosophy," adapted from the French; Jarvis's "Text-Books in Human Anatomy;" Pujal and Van Norman's "Complete French Class-Book," being a complete course of grammar, conversation, and literature on a new system; Brooks's "Annotated and Illustrated Classics;" Wood's "Text-Books in Botany," works of established reputation; Mansfield's "Political Manual," etc., etc.

The catalogue of school text-books issued by this house comprises 218 distinct works in every department of school, academic, or collegiate instruction. They are also the publishers of Henry Ward Beecher's "Plymouth Collection of Hymns and Tunes," and of "Songs for the Sanctuary," by Rev. S. E. Robinson, of Brooklyn, N. Y. In addition to these they issue about ninety volumes of a general character, including the "Teachers' Library," books of travel, popular biographies, etc., etc.

It will be noticed that their catalogue contains standard works in nearly every department of school, academic, and collegiate instruction, while the list of authors embraces some of the most eminent and successful educators in the country. The publishers are constantly adding such works as may seem necessary to a complete school series, while new and revised editions of their present publications are prepared from time to time as the progress of science or improvements in methods of teaching may require.

Prof. Davies's new series of arithmetics have been rewritten throughout. Prof. Porter's popular work on chemistry has received a new dress, and is much enlarged. Monteith's "First Lessons in Geography" has been rewritten to incorporate "object lessons." McNally's larger geography undergoes constant revision as geographical features change or new discoveries are made. Parker and Watson's (the "National") series of spellers and readers are now in the authors' hands for revision in a new style. Willard's histories of the United States, in English and Spanish, have been enlarged and improved. Prof. Clark is at work upon his larger grammar with similar purpose. Of new books the following bid fair to be very successful: Haskin's "First French Book," Raymond's "Patriotic Speaker," Brooks's "Viri Americae," Sherwood's "Writing Speller," Church's "Descriptive Geometry," Wood's "Object Lessons in Botany," "Wells on Graded Schools," etc., etc.

The business of this house had been increasing un-

til the war arrested its progress to a limited degree, in consequence of the large amount due to it from its southern customers. Despite, however, this interruption and the heavy losses which it entailed, the firm continued its business with its usual energy, and during the war largely increased its line of trade with the great West. And now that the South are beginning to renew their trade, the demand for their books has been greater than their means of supply.

Since the war, a large demand has sprung up from the South among the freedmen, and is opening new channels for the book trade, more especially for primary school-books. The superintendents of instruction, acting under orders from the Freedmen's Bureau, for the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, and Texas, this last fall adopted "The National Series of Standard School-Books" for uniform use in colored schools throughout their respective states. This, during the coming year, will make an unprecedented demand, for which the publishers are endeavoring to prepare by increasing their manufacturing facilities. When we consider that four millions of blacks should be taught to read and write, together with the wants of our own increasing white population, it will at once be realized what a field is opening up for the school-book business.

Excellent as are the publications of this firm, it is not by their simple merits alone that they have attained such a wide circulation. The employment of intelligent agents to circulate them and to point out their excellences to teachers and school committees, is a most essential and important department of the business, as it is of the business of all successful school-book publishers. No matter how meritorious a school-book may be, if not brought into notice by agencies, circulars, and advertisements, its circulation is contracted and the investment unprofitable. Whereas, a good book, with a publisher who uses tact and spends money freely, yet judiciously, in pushing it, will yield to both author and publisher a good profit. Recognizing this fact, A. S. Barnes & Co. have traveling agents in every part of the United States, and local agents in every considerable city or town. All this machinery is under the general charge of Mr. P. B. Hulse, who resides in New York city, and who, though but recently entered upon his duties here, brings to the work rare qualifications, and a wide and valuable acquaintance with the correspondents of the house.

Traveling agents in the school-book business differ from those who work for "subscription" or miscellaneous books, inasmuch as they receive a fixed salary and their expenses, instead of a commission. They are of two classes: (1) those who labor with state or city boards of education, and exercise general supervision over a considerable extent of territory; and (2) those who, generally under the direction of the former, pass from school to school, conferring with the teachers, and making a point for their "series" wherever they see a chance. The work of the latter class is apt to be more permanent, and is, therefore, more profitable in the long run, though the initial work is more tedious and expensive. The cost of introductions, including the salaries and expenses of agents, and the cost of books furnished, at merely nominal prices, to facilitate their adoption, is the greatest item of the school publisher's expenses, and requires the most judicious management. Local agents are booksellers, who, in consideration of certain special discounts, devote themselves to the interests of one house. In the employment of agents, and in a liberal distribution of books among schools, teachers, and committees for first introduction, this firm has spent at least a quarter of a million dollars within the last two years.

A. S. Barnes & Co., in addition to their publishing interests, have an extensive jobbing department, enabling them to furnish not only their own but other publishers' issues, as well as stationery and blank-books of all descriptions.

Their establishment has now occupied the same original premises for twenty-one years, but has extended its limits by taking in the upper stories of the two adjoining buildings, 53 and 55 John Street; the back buildings on Dutch Street and the upper room of No. 51 John Street are used for the manufactory

their stock and samples occupying seven large sales warerooms, each 25 by 100, at 51, 53, and 55 John Street. The number of hands employed by their printer and binder averages about 200, besides the employment of other persons, in other places, in lithography, map-coloring, etc.

Since the death of Mr. Burr, Mr. Barnes has taken his son, A. C. Barnes, into partnership with him, and the business is again conducted under the old name of A. S. Barnes & Co.

CORRESPONDENCE.

BOSTON.

BOSTON, March 17, 1866.

I MENTIONED recently a new pocket edition of "Hudibras" gotten out by Roberts Brothers, in a size corresponding to the "blue and gold" issues, though somewhat stouter by reason of thicker paper. The book is manufactured in England and an impression of the same plates supplies the market there. Beginning with Johnson's collection in 1770 and taking the dozen or more prominent series of the poets since then, Anderson and Chalmers are the only editors who have omitted Butler. We have at least one other Boston imprint of his works in Little, Brown & Co.'s edition of the British poets. Then, if we consider the various successive issues of Grey's annotated edition and of Nash's which have borne a London imprint, we shall find that at no time for the last two hundred years—for it is full that time since the author published his first and second parts—has there been a long interval without some new issue offered for the acceptance of such as are students of English poetry, or systematically provide themselves with its recognized exemplars. I suppose we may count thirty different editions of Butler in these two centuries (and probably then omit some of the cheaper ones) which would be sought by the more select readers, while the present more popular shape would seem to indicate that there was still somewhat of a demand for "Hudibras" among the people at large, who buy to find amusement in the reading rather than to place on the shelf for study and reference. Goldsmith complained a hundred years ago, when he reviewed the posthumous "Remains" of Butler, that most people then took up a book to be idle; and if the commonality to-day do the same, and hope to find the means in "Hudibras," they must either be greatly deceived or else possess a superiority to the mere cultured in finding entertainment amid the too dazzling wit and piled-up learning of this famous book. Leigh Hunt tells us that in his youth he rushed through "Hudibras" at one desperate plunge, without understanding a twentieth part, but laughing immoderately at the rhymes and similes, and catching a bit of knowledge unawares. This is just the way that "Hudibras" presents itself to the ordinary reader, not possessed of Dryden's or Addison's critical qualms that Butler had not written in the established heroic verse, while without doubt the same reader would not be now enjoying this burlesque if it had been so written. It is not a little singular to see writers of so ready sympathies as the two named giving way to an æsthetic prejudice, while so scholastic judges as Johnson and Warburton stand squarely up for Butler as he is, and as the common folk enjoyed him once, if they cannot now.

Hallam tells us that "Hudibras" was incomparably more popular than "Paradise Lost;" that it rose at once to a greater reputation than any other poem in our tongue, and that for a half century it was perpetually quoted. Johnson said that Milton and Butler contained more thinking than any other of our poets; but it was not certainly this quality that popularized the one and rendered the other nugatory. "Paradise Lost" was pronounced dull then, and "Hudibras" could not be now more tiresome to attentive study if it were dull too, which certainly it is not. Sir James Mackintosh chronicles in his diary: "I find 'Hudibras' heavy; loaded with pedantic learning and temporary allusions." Almost everybody who reads with a habit of closeness comes to the same conclusion. Johnson, Scott, Goldsmith have all left such decision. I remember Lowell, in a lecture, comparing a sitting over "Hudibras" to a walk across our Common on the evening of a Fourth of July amid fizzing crackers and serpents around, beneath, and above, until one gladly took to his heels and got clear. This gives us an idea of Leigh Hunt's "desperate plunge" to get through with it. Hume gave his idea of the difficulty in the too great condensation of words and the too great prolixity of thoughts. Emerson recognizes the same traits, and calls it a "hard mentality, keeping the truth at once to the senses and to the intellect." It was just

this that made Walpole characterize Butler as the "Hogarth of poetry," an award partially true only. Hogarth crammed his plates with ideas, as Butler does his verse, but he was less recondite, and there was an easier flow of continuity in his story. The painter's characters were far more real than the poet's, whose figures are like those of bran, set up merely to throw darts at. Hogarth rarely contracted humanity into mere personality, and indulged not often in simple caricature. This, on the other hand, was Butler's peculiar force. Mrs. Browning says of him that he made his business that of a desecrator, the very reverse of what a poet's should be, and she said truly; and Milton is the standing opposite of all Hudibrastic irony. The discovery of Milton's Arianism may have injured the sale of his works, as has been reported; but the temporary character of the allusive wit of this great burlesque upon Puritanism is not fitted to preserve its meaning in any great degree of enjoyment. When Dr. Grey, in 1744, pronounced Butler the unrivaled darling of his country, he reflected even then rather a traditional than an actual reputation. Johnson was aware of it when he prepared his estimate, a lifetime later; and, tory as he was, he was not blind to the fact that in "Hudibras" the Cromwellian party had been treated with unfairness. The Cavalier spirit in Butler ran into the same excesses that characterized the descendants of the royalists in our Southern States at the opening of the late rebellion, when they boasted so openly of the great inequality, man for man, of the sons of the Puritanic North with their boasted chivalry. Johnson remarks of the same spirit in Butler that, whatever he may think of their knowledge and arguments, the author of "Hudibras" should have known that their swords were not to be despised. Butler sharpened his wit more than once on the seemingly behavior of those saintly New Englanders, but their descendants have greatly changed when a Boston imprint goes forth upon a popular edition of the poem that stung their ancestors the most smartly of all ungodly laughers.

Butler is accused—and justly—in thus emphasizing the weak points of the Puritan character, of taking no cognizance of the stronger, the holy enthusiasm, the self-devotion and masterful energy. Cervantes had made the knight of Mancha ludicrous but not contemptible, showing how principles right at the start could be carried to extremes of senselessness. It was much the same with the Puritan character; but the author of "Hudibras" had nothing of Cervantes' philosophical insight; he was, moreover, engaged in making a special plea for future self-aggrandizement, and he failed, as selfishness often does, to get its coveted reward after having immolated justice on the altar of burlesque. The world knows how he got stones for the bread he asked for.

I leave this train of thought to consider Mr. Trowbridge's recent exposition of modern spiritualism in his new story of "Lucy Arlyn," in which he has sought to make use of this passion as a new means of the supernatural in the conduct of a story. The inducement was certainly very great; the hazard equally so. One can but wish that Hawthorne could have lived to grapple this subject of mystery—for, though discarding its spiritual groundwork, there is yet enough of wonder in the manifestations, physical or otherwise, to constitute the romancer's longed-for mystery—and that we could have had the strange ideal of the "medium" drawn with the weird power that is evident in the character of Donatello. The hand that drew Zenobia in "The Blithedale Romance" could have delineated the self-conscious seeress of this quality, fascinating by her mental power and glorying in her supremacy, with a stronger effect than Christina in the present book evinces, although this personage is not by any means a failure in the younger hand.

Scott, as a human being, was cognizant of a spiritual atmosphere that he hesitated to breathe as a romancer. It is a belief, he says, that is capable of being pushed into superstition and absurdity, and what he knew as "second sight" in Scotland was innocent compared with the wondrous *quasi*-developments that the great hallucination or trick of the nineteenth century has shown to us in Home and the rest. It took, perhaps, the canny Scot of him to effect the results of this Scoto-American's jugglery. Sir Walter believed the intimations of this cognate world to lie at the foundation of our religion and of our nature—that about our sublimity abode was another world, of whose habitants our senses were too gross for perception. I cannot think of any fitter personation of the dread power of this feeling, converted from a comforting sympathy to a realistic presence, than the picture that Milton draws of death itself:

"The other shape—
If shape it might be called, which shape had none,
Distinguishable in member, joint, or limb;
Or substance might be called that shadow seemed,

For each seemed either—black he stood as night;
Fierce as ten furies; terrible as hell;
And shook a deadly dart. What seemed his head
The likeness of a kingly crown had on."

Just this demonic majesty, having the guise of supernal worth and the absoluteness of evil, is this presence in our social organizations. Mr. Trowbridge has sought to give its influence, I think, with intended fairness; and there is certainly nothing in the result that would convert even indifference, much less a skeptic. Little but misery grew out of the hallucination in this New England village—for we take it to be such—where the money which the divining rods of mediums had indicated was not found, and the earthly peace of families was broken up for the temptations of affinities. As the mere machinery for fiction I can but think it could be employed to much more advantage than arises from its use in "Lucy Arlyn." Scott has put it down as a rule that the supernatural in fiction comes under that denomination where a little is much more than the whole, and that it loses its effect for coarse handling and repeated pressure. If spiritualism, as an effect, is not of the supernatural order, it is something very near it in its believers' eyes; and, as a machinery of romance, it must have that effect. Mr. Trowbridge errs, I think, in giving the "seances" he describes so realistic an air; he writes his narrative dispassionately, leaving it to itself for credibility. We are all so wedded to the method of our great romancer that we are not easily satisfied in his peculiar sphere by another. But it is useless and unjust to ask of any one to be to us what Hawthorne was.

It has been declared that the Protestant faith has a warmer and closer alliance with spiritualism than Catholicism, as has been evinced by its comparative want of success in Catholic countries, and of the two or three millions of spiritualists, which it is claimed there are in the United States, it is not unlikely that the ratio of the two churches is out of all proportion to their respective shares of the people. Whether New England is the center of it now may well be doubted, since the vast increase in other directions; but that it has existed there to the great extent usually recognized is not unlikely, as an outgrowth of her peculiar characteristics. Protestantism, as a scheme of life, not unnaturally leads to other kinds of protests than that against Romanism. Pressed to its utmost it reacts till extremes sometimes meet. It has been claimed that in New England a return to monarchy met with most encouragement after the rule of indecision that first followed upon the acquisition of independence. The strict Puritanism of the early colonists, the independency of their churches, pushed beyond the bounds of restraint, has led to liberty of individual belief, and liberty too often verges on license. It is, then, not an unfair advantage of his New England acquaintance that Mr. Trowbridge has taken in grouping some of the ultra characteristics of the people in such a story as "Lucy Arlyn."

As to the author's own views of the problem, it were perhaps not fair to decide unhesitatingly from his method of treatment in a story. One is inclined to fancy, however, he is not disinclined to give spiritualism the benefits of some doubt, and to hold that a belief is not necessarily false because the arguments brought to its support are insufficient for proof. The book has been produced under Ticknor & Fields' imprint, in a style corresponding to "Cudjo's Cave." There is another phase of New England life, as represented by Mr. Whittier in his recent poem, that I had wished to speak of, but must defer it now.

Our community has lost in Mr. Sparks a judicious if not a graceful writer, whose literary labors have helped to earn for us a recognition beyond our own shores. His appearance had indicated feebleness for some years.

W.

PHILADELPHIA.

PHILADELPHIA, March 17, 1866.

In literary matters there is little of interest, except that the late Mr. C. A. Poulson, of whom I lately sent you some account, bequeathed his large and valuable collection of local works and curiously illustrated books to the Philadelphia Library, and also the sum of five hundred dollars to pay the expenses incident to the arrangement of the books.

The Artists' Fund Society had a reception, most numerous attended, at the Academy of Fine Arts, on Tuesday evening of last week. The whole suite of rooms was thrown open, and the walls of the two large saloons, on the eastern side, were covered with paintings and sketches so exclusively by Philadelphia artists that the only contributions from New York were "The Gleaner," by Hennessy, and "Near New York," by Kensett. The Messrs. Rothermel, Waugh, Lambdin, G. R. Wood (landscape and

interior), Thomas Moran, W. T. Richards, T. Henry Smith, W. H. Wilcox, and others were well represented by their works. Edmund D. Lewis had some charming landscapes. C. F. Blauvelt (formerly of New York) showed several domestic paintings of great merit. Hamilton exhibited several marine pictures and sketches, and two or three beautiful "bits" of scenery. C. G. Rosenberg's "New York from South Brooklyn" attracted many admirers, and was well placed. John Faulkner, our first artist, who has lately settled here, sent in several landscapes, which were not surpassed by the productions of any other painter, and Edward Moran's picture of a "Launch of the Life-Boat," though unfinished, is not only the best of his many compositions, but is considered, by the *cognoscenti* here, as one of the finest marine pictures ever painted on this side of the Atlantic. It has a great deal of Turner's best manner. This exhibition, free of charge to visitors, was kept open for three days, and already the artists have found its good effects in sales and orders. The regular exhibition will be opened early in May, and is generally well attended. The artists, with scarcely an exception, are fully and profitably employed this season.

Some time ago mention was made in this correspondence of the amateur theatrical performances "up town" (which, in Philadelphia, means westward) and the fact that their success during the war was so considerable as to tempt some persons of sufficient pecuniary means to purchase an unoccupied church in Seventeenth Street, near Chestnut, to convert it into a regular temple of Thespis, on a small scale. An extremely neat theater was the result, convenient and well appointed, and the amateurs duly migrated or emigrated to it, extending their dramatic *répertoire*, adhering to their original plan of having their stage costumes of the best material and make, and wearing no stage jewelry; why should they, when "many a gem of purest ray serene" was in their own jewel-cases, or to be borrowed from their friends? So long as it was a case of dramatic performances amid difficulties—a small auditorium and a yet smaller stage, comparatively speaking—the amateurs were singularly successful and popular. Alas! for the uncertainty of mundane events, now that they are in a place which might be taken, or mistaken, for a real theater, on a small scale, the charming amateurs cannot be said to have conquered the success which—pays. The price of admission is not so much as it was two years ago, at the dear, old, cramped place of performance; but it is larger than the general charge at the regular theaters, and some of the audience, critically inclined, though they pay the money, complain that they do not get anything like value for it. They are so exacting as to expect that amateurs shall play as well as the company at the Arch Street Theater (of the *corps dramatique* at the other Philadelphia theaters the least said the soonest mended, for they include a miscellaneous selection of *sticks*), and grumble accordingly. It is very probable that the amateurs will not continue their organization after the present season. The moral is—leave well alone. Had they continued as they began, in a small house where the patient public was inclined to make the fullest allowance for all shortcomings, they might have continued successful up to this time.

There is a somewhat similar institution here, which may advantageously apply the example of the theatrical amateurs. With the operatic company of which Bozio (fair, young, and silver-toned) was a member some fifteen years ago, came over one Signor Perelli, who was tempted to remain in Philadelphia as a teacher of singing, and who, being a very capable instructor, has established himself as a necessity in our aristocratic circles. If any fair pupil of his has a voice capable of being artistically trained, Signor Perelli will certainly show her how to make the most of it—provided that her own ambition and application second his earnest and honest endeavors.

There are two living instances of his perseverance and success. Two young ladies of Irish descent, respectively named Frances and Agnes Heron, living in Philadelphia, gave sufficient indications of possessing good voices and musical taste, and were placed under the instruction of Signor Perelli, who took a great deal of pains with them—for he is a thoroughly conscientious teacher. One of them lisped a little, but this was not much noticeable in the concert-room or on the stage. One had a good contralto voice, the other a soprano. Their first public appearance was at a concert in Musical Fund Hall, in the winter of 1857, and—poor things!—they were so dreadfully alarmed at the idea of facing an audience that they stipulated for singing behind a large number of tall flowering shrubs, arranged on the platform as a screen. These nightingales warbled prettily behind this shroud of greenery, heard but invisible, and, it was whispered, were heard to lament, after they had broken

the ice with their first duet, that their excessive diffidence had prevented their being visible to the audience. However, the *début* showed that they could sing, and they started soon after, as *prime donne*, their first appearance on the lyric stage being at Caracas, the capital of the South American republic of Venezuela. Here they changed their names, Frances and Agnes Heron becoming Francesca and Agnese Natali. The first appearance of Frances was in "La Figlia del Reggimento" as Marie, and of Agnes as Leonora in "The Trovatore." They had immense success, which may have been helped by the fact that they were Catholics, and very cheerfully sang in the churches in Venezuela at request. They subsequently went with an operatic company to some of the West India Islands. Returning here, an engagement with them was literally forced on Max Maretzek, who was *impresario* at our Academy of Music, but, though the newspapers did all they could to help them on, and though they sang prettily, they did not create any sensation. Subsequently one of them married Signor Rocco. They went back to South America, it is believed, for comparatively recent accounts therefrom speak of their continued popularity there. They mainly owe it to their teacher, Perelli, who, I do believe, can work even a middling voice up to a certain telling point, if its owner will only assist him. No wonder, then, that he is able to ask high terms and compelled to limit the number of his pupils.

R. S. M.

LONDON.

LONDON, March 3, 1866.

THE oration of Mr. Bancroft, or at least the references in it to England and France, have excited considerable indignation in England amongst all classes, but particularly among Americans. In the land which produced Sir Philip Sidney it is not pleasant to hear of gentlemen (whatever their country's sins) invited to participate in the domestic feeling and grief of our nation, and there gratuitously insulted. The oration itself would not have been so bad if Mr. Seward had written a note of apology to each affronted foreign representative—just as he would have done had any gentleman been insulted at his table, whatever his opinions as to the more remote cause of the trouble. Those who went into the Capitol to hear Mr. Bancroft were the guests of America. Bad manners are not the worst of faults, but are probably productive of more evil than any other. And surely there is somewhat in true gentlemanliness that it will, as some one has said, "outgeneral veterans in the field." In the controversies with England about Confederate ships we have been surely enough in the right to dispense with discourtesies. There is no doubt that every American here shares the shame and indignation which were expressed by one of their number—Mr. Livingstone—in a letter to the *Times* this morning.

"Persons like Mr. Fernando Wood and Mr. Train," says the *Saturday Review*, "may rave at Fenian meetings without suggesting any comment beyond the remark that democratic agitators are consistent in their flattery of Irish ignorance and lawlessness. Mr. Bancroft's outrage on good feeling and good breeding is less easily passed over, as it indicates a spirit, on the part of his audience, which may easily lead to war. . . . To invite the minister of a foreign government to listen to his rancorous invective against his country is a proceeding of which an Englishman only thinks that it could never have occurred to a gentleman. . . . If great nations consider themselves wronged, their representatives ought not to remonstrate like street-boys or infuriated women."

That semi-mythical body of enlightened citizens which is supposed to disapprove of the coarseness of American politicians must share in the discredit inflicted on their country by its chosen rulers." *Ex uno disce omnes.*

No American can remain for any length of time without discovering that there is about as much injustice done in America to Englishmen and to England as there is in this country to America and Americans. England has indeed, as a nation, serious congenital and traditional faults; it is not so easy for the old trunk of a tree to grow and change as the branches. But surely until America has done justice to the weak and wronged within her borders, she should be careful not to throw too many stones at other nations. But England is at this moment producing the moral and intellectual forerunners of the human race. It is a shame that American scholars should suck the strength of Carlyle, Mill, Hamilton, Tennyson, Thackeray, Dickens, Browning, Grote, Spencer, Huxley, Lyell, Owen, Arnold, and in the strength so obtained should insult the mother that has fostered these masters. England is for us in America the great filter of the thoughts of all epochs, ages, lands. Shall we

make a row because she is not—she a little island, set on social foundations of a thousand or two thousand years back—a duplicate of America? Do we see further because we stand on England's shoulders, and then kick her contemptuously from under us? We shall fall into the mud, if we do, and see less than England.

Amongst thirty millions of English men and women I defy any one to name a thousand who ever uttered an ungenerous word toward America.

I went through Lancashire during the late American war, and saw some of the sorrows of the cotton famine; saw, too, the half-starving men and women who did not for an instant falter from their loyalty to justice and freedom represented in that war which was starving them. There has lately been collected by Mr. John Harland a book of (genuine) "Lancashire Lyrics." From it let me send you a few lines from the "Weaver to his Wife," a lay of that recent cotton famine written by one who lived amidst the sufferers:

"Draw up thy cheer, owd lass, we're still a bit o' fire,
An' I'm starv't to death w' cummin' throo th' weat an' mire;
He tow'd a lie o' thee an' me, as said as th' love o' the poor
Flies out o' th' kitchen window when clemmin' [starving] cums
to th' door.

Aw'm not ruen'—as thae weel knows—as ever I wed thee,
But I've monny a quare thowt as thae mon sometimes rue o' me.

"But better chaps nor me an' thae hes hed to live o' nowt,
An' we'n hed a tidy time on't afor th' war brok' out;
An' if I'm gerrin' varra thin, it matters nowt o' me,
Th' hardest work is sittin' here shamming for th' choilt [child] an' thee.

Tha' art gerrin' ter'ble pale, too, but fowk w'l' nowt to heyt [eat]
Con't luk as nice an' weel as them as plenty hes o' meyt."

Would it not be a fine thing—worthy of the age, and of the two great branches of the Anglo-Saxon family—to bring upon these poor Lancashire weavers and their wives the taxations, cotton famines, and all other of the results of an Anglo-American war?

THE FRENCH LEGISLATURE.

The *Pall Mall Gazette*, which has a "chiel takin' notes" everywhere—from Lambeth Workhouse to the Pope's private chamber—has an interesting correspondent among that sacred and enviable baker's dozen who, besides the members, can be admitted into the little gallery of the French Assembly. How he got there and who he is one cannot at present even conjecture. He gives us, however, some interesting personal sketches of some men who are probably, to the majority of your readers, little more than names; so I have been saving up some of them for you. Of the old Republican party—the "left"—Jules Favre, Picard, Jules Simon, Pelletan, and Glais-Bizoin are the leaders. Of the first of these—the indefatigable advocate and politician—we are told that his daily transition from the bar to the Chamber is so rapid that he (M. Favre) sometimes forgets his whereabouts and addresses the Chamber as the court, while a malicious titter rises from the ministerial benches. But if he sometimes fancies he is still pleading to justice, he never forgets that here his client is his country, and that it is for the national liberties he holds a brief. M. Favre's eloquence betrays more art than passion. His brilliant images and telling epigrams are delivered in tones of measured cadence. He speaks rather slowly for a Frenchman, pronouncing each word with precision, caressing it, as it were, for an instant with the tongue, and launching it carefully upon the audience. A striking phrase is often reserved so as to bring a sentence to a sensational close. But many of his best sayings are due to the intolerant interjections of the majority, that provoke him into retorts which are the more effective from being so unexpected and obviously unprepared. His voice is well pitched; but, when he first begins to speak, a little husky and broken by a painful cough. But by degrees his voice recovers itself, and the stinging words come forth sharp and clear in a steady, rhythmic flow.

Next ranks Picard—up to 1857 an advocate in good practice—smart, witty, and combative. He has less elevation than M. Favre, whose leadership he willingly allows, but he is superior in his keen eye for an opportunity and promptitude in availing himself of it. He is also more practical in his views of public affairs. He speaks with great coolness and self-possession, and always expresses himself clearly and distinctly. At first his adversaries affected to take no serious heed of his attacks, but he soon succeeded by his lucid statements and solid argument—making his weight felt, for, though full of *épiquerie*, he is never capricious, and keeps his aim steadily in view. He is the ordinary advanced guard of the opposition on the great field days, when the finishing blow is reserved for one of the heavier and more forcible members of the party; but he is especially valuable in the more familiar debates, by the precision with which he sets forth the object of dispute. His voice is

full and sonorous; and his face, although somewhat puffed, open and sympathetic in expression.

M. Glais-Bizoin, who fills with less ability an analogous part, is a curious contrast to M. Picard. A small, angular sort of head and a thin, shrill voice suggest a degree of physical inferiority which is oddly combined with a giddy vehemence that often places him at the mercy of a hostile majority. His strength lies in an original, well-disciplined mind, and in his moral dignity of character. His long parliamentary experience also gives authority to his remarks. Born in 1789, he began under the Restoration to distinguish himself in the Council-General of the Northern Coasts on the side of the democratic opposition. He held his seat as deputy for that department continuously from 1830 to 1851, and since the election of 1863, which restored him to the Chamber, he has been a valuable addition to his party.

M. Pelletan, who made his first entrance into the Chamber at the same time that M. Glais-Bizoin returned to it, owes his position to his ability as a journalist. He has tried his skill—in some instances with success—in almost every branch of letters, from fiction to philosophy. As a politician and philosopher he is too much under the influence of a romantic imagination, mingled curiously with a touch of Calvinistic severity. His metaphorical and rather didactic style of speech, which might do very well in a popular assembly, is scarcely adapted to a cold and worldly audience like the legislative body. His first essays in the Chamber, full of scriptural imagery and singularly outspoken phrases, were laughed at by the irreverent deputies. Since then he has acquired greater control over himself, and has shown that there is in him the stuff of even a better speaker than writer. There is a contagious ardor about him, and he is not wanting either in talent or ingenuity. He is a tall, muscular man, with a black beard beginning to be a little grizzled, and full, brilliant eyes. He stands slightly bent when addressing the house. His *début* in literature was made under the auspices of M. de Lamartine. One of his latest works is a criticism on Proudhon, in the "*Revue des Deux Mondes*," which by no means came up to the high expectations entertained of it, being decidedly crude and scrappy.

M. Jules Simon, a mild, kindly-looking man, whose voice never rises above a minor key, is the type of the philanthropic academician. He devotes himself to such questions as the education of the people, the condition of the working classes, and so on. If rather deficient in intellectual vigor and in the capacity for grappling with a problem at the roots, his somewhat plaintive eloquence touches the audience by its earnest and sympathetic tones. Some of the republicans reproach him with want of constancy in the general elections of 1863. However that may be, M. Jules Simon has brought to the opposition of to-day a degree of moral force which is not to be disdained.

Whilst I am upon French matters I may also mention that considerable interest has been manifested in a speech just made on a petition in the French Senate, calling for further precautions against premature burial, by Cardinal Donnet, who adduced several instances of persons who had been certified as dead but turned out to be alive. He remembered a case when he was a young priest of an old man who lived twelve hours after the legal warrant for his burial was issued. In another case at Bordeaux a young girl was certified to be dead. He (M. Donnet) providentially came to the house just as she was about to be screwed down. He conceived doubts about her dissolution, spoke to her in a loud voice, and had the happiness of hearing her answer. That woman, who belonged to one of the most respectable families at Bordeaux, was still alive, a wife and a mother. He would mention another case yet more striking. In 1826 a young priest preaching on a hot day in a crowded church suddenly fell down unconscious. He was taken home and laid out for dead. A medical certificate of his death was given, and preparations were made for his funeral. The bishop of the cathedral in which he had been preaching came to the foot of his bed and said a *De Profundis*. The measure of his coffin was taken, and he, alive all the time, heard the orders given for his burial, and was not able to protest against them. At length the voice of a friend of his boyhood produced a magical effect upon him, and he awoke. "That priest," said Cardinal Donnet, "is now, at the distance of forty years, alive; he is here among you a member of the Senate, and he now supplicates the government to frame better regulations, so as to prevent terrible and irreparable misfortunes." Several other senators mentioned cases of suspended animation, and the Senate was so struck with the arguments brought forward, that, in spite of a speech by President Royer, contending that the existing regulations were as perfect as could be, it overruled the report of

the committee, and voted that the petition should be referred, as worthy of consideration, to the minister of the interior.

VARIA.

A vast deal of sensation has been produced at the disclosures at the divorce court in the case of Mr. F. W. H. Cavendish, who, day before yesterday, obtained a divorce from his wife, Lady Elinor Sophia Diana Cavendish (a daughter of the late Lord Clare), on account of her adultery with Lord Cecil Gordon. The parties were married in 1856, and they had had three children, the youngest being now two years old. In consequence of an accident in 1861 the petitioner went to Paris, where he made the acquaintance of the co-respondent, who had married Lady Elinor's half-sister. Lord Cecil was a very poor man, and he had nine children. The Cavendishes loaded him with kindnesses, and as he was a man of sixty, and twice the age of Lady Elinor, no suspicion was excited till February, 1865, when he eloped with her, and they had since lived together at Nice as Mr. and Mrs. Graham. It was suggested that one reason for the seduction might have been the fact that the respondent had, by the death of Lord and Lady Clare, come into possession of a large fortune. The petitioner claimed £20,000 as damages, and the jury gave him £10,000, with a unanimous expression of their opinion that it was one of the grossest cases they had ever heard of.

Some touching relics of the *London* have been discovered sealed up in bottles on the coast of Quiberon. They were messages written by persons on board when all hope had fled. One, dated the 10th of January, is signed D. W. Lemmon and runs thus: "The ship is sinking; no hope of being saved. Dear parents, may God bless you, as also me, with the hope of eternal salvation." Another, dated the 11th, reads: "F. C. M'Millan, of Launceston, Tasmania, 11th of January, 1866, to his dear wife and his dear children. May God bless you all! Farewell for this world! Lost in the steamship *London*, bound for Melbourne." A third is to the following effect: "H. J. Denis to Jh. Denis Knight, at Great Shelford.—Adieu, father, brothers, and sisters, and my . . . Edi. Steamer *London*, Bay of Biscay, Thursday, 10 o'clock. Ship too heavily laden for its size, and too crank; windows stove

in—water coming in everywhere. God bless my poor orphans. Request to send this paper, if found, to Great Shelford. Storm not too violent for a ship in good condition." On the same day were found on the shoals of Quiberon a binnacle watch, stopped at half-past ten o'clock, a woman's shift, two cotton sheets, two splinters of wood, having on them in white letters two and a half inches long, the word "London."

The fellows and undergraduates of Cambridge feel very sore about the rejection by the university senate of Mr. Thompson's generous offer to endow an American lectureship there. They have had for two weeks a warm debate in the Cambridge Union on a motion that it should have been accepted. Lord Fitzmaurice opened the adjourned debate, in favor of the motion, on Wednesday evening. After a warm discussion a division showed 100 in favor of the lectureship to 60 against it.

The following dispatch, which the English consul at Rome has forwarded to the Earl of Clarendon, may be of importance to your American readers who contemplate traveling in Europe:

"Travelers visiting the Pope's dominions should be very careful not to bring forbidden books or Colt's revolvers with them, the custom-house officers having strict orders to confiscate them, and it is not always possible to recover them after the owners have left the Roman States. Forbidden books are those condemned by the Congregation of the Index, books on religion or morality in general, political and philosophical works of every description, and more especially Italian religious tracts published in London. But, above all, travelers should be careful not to bring English, Italian, or other Bibles with them, the Bible being strictly prohibited."

M. de Villemessant, the proprietor of the *Evénement*, a penny non-political journal, has been trying to persuade M. Victor Hugo to consent to the publication of his new novel, "Les Travailleurs de la Mer," in that periodical. The author, however, has insuperable objections to that mode of publication. The *Temps* offered a very large sum for the right of printing the "Misérables," but M. Victor would not even consider the proposal. He does not think justice can be done to a work of art by cutting it up into detached portions. He is now correcting the last proofs of the new book, which will be published about the 13th of March.

There has been a prevalent idea that Schumann, the composer, was of a morose, ill-natured disposition, but his admirers have just published some criticisms of his on his contemporaries—Beethoven, Schubert, Mendelssohn, Chopin, Bennett, etc.—which suggest quite a different idea. He appears in these writings as a kind, considerate man, full of generous appreciation of other musicians. Nearly every composer is mentioned in terms of personal friendship, and their works are viewed in the most favorable light. Schumann's admirers hope that this correction of a false impression in regard to his personal character will help to enhance his growing popularity as a composer.

PERSONAL.

The death of Mr. Godfrey Sykes, the elegant designer, is announced. He was the gentleman that designed (at Thackeray's request) that cover to the "Cornhill Magazine," which is unsurpassable in its way.

The Manchester Cobden Memorial Committee have resolved to recommend to the subscribers, at a meeting on Monday, that of the sum raised £1,250 shall be devoted to the endowment of a chair of political economy in Owen's College, and the remainder invested, and its proceeds given in prizes to the pupils.

Dr. Anderssen, of Breslau, has been invited to a chess contest by the famous Austrian chess-player, Herr Steinitz. A sum of £100 is to become the property of the winner, and the game is to be played in London, either at Easter or in July.

M. D. C.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

TICKNOR & FIELDS, Boston.—Lucy Arlyn. By J. T. Trowbridge. 1866. Pp. 564.
D. APPLETON & Co., New York.—The Temporal Mission of the Holy Ghost; or, Reason and Revelation. By Henry Edward, Archbishop of Westminster. 1866. Pp. 274.
Stonewall Jackson: A Military Biography, with portraits and maps. By John Estlin Cooke. 1866. Pp. 470.
An Eirenicon. By E. B. Fessenden, D.D. 1866. Pp. 395.
MILLS & Co., Des Moines, Iowa.—Poems of the Prairies. By Leonard Brown. 1865. Pp. 216.
T. B. PETERSON & Co., Philadelphia.—The Fortune Seeker. By Mrs. Emma D. E. N. Southworth. 1866. Pp. 498.
AMERICAN NEWS COMPANY, New York.—Eccentric Personages. By W. Russell, LL.D. 1866. Pp. 418.
E. P. DUTTON & Co., Boston.—Trinity Psalter; or, Psalms of David, with appropriate chants. Edited by Dr. Henry Steven Cutler, with an introduction by Rev. Morgan Dix, S.T.D. 1865. Pp. 328.

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Cash Assets, Feb. 1, 1866, \$14,885,278 88

Number of Policies issued in 1865, 8,000, insuring... \$31,394,407 00
In Force February 1, 1866, 25,797 Policies, insuring... 83,413,933 00
Dividend Addition to same... 7,830,925 92
\$91,344,358 92

STATEMENT FOR YEAR.

JANUARY 31, 1866.

The Net Assets Feb. 1, 1865... \$11,799,414 68

RECEIPTS DURING THE YEAR.

For premiums and policy fees:
Original on new policies... \$1,154,006 94
Renewals... 1,818,654 82
War extras and annuities, 15,435 64—\$2,988,150 40
Interest:
On bonds and mortgages, 361,732 88
U. S. Stocks... 353,529 52
Premium on gold... 94,999 66—
Rent... 55,833 34—\$3,853,065 50
Total... \$15,632,490 48

Disbursements as follows:
Paid claims by death and additions to same... \$712,833 71
Paid matured Endowment Policies and additions... 30,909 52
Paid post-mortem Dividends, Dividends surrendered, and reduction of Premium... 58,730 87
Paid surrendered Policies... 190,691 40
Paid annuities... 10,242 55
Paid Taxes... 38,076 52
Paid Expenses, including Exchange, Postage, Advertising, Medical Examinations, Salaries, Printing, Stationery, and sundry office expenses... 174,310 94
Paid Commissions, and for purchase of Commissions accruing on future premiums... 334,255 12—1,540,130 63
Net Cash Assets, Jan. 31, 1866... \$14,112,349 85

Invested as follows:
Cash on hand and in Bank... \$1,475,860 82
Bonds and Mortgages... 7,345,622 30
U. S. Stocks (cost)... 4,468,921 25
Real Estate... 782,307 34
Balance due by Agents... 36,599 14—\$14,112,349 85
Add:
Interest accrued but not due... \$112,000 00
Interest due and unpaid... 5,094 73
Deferred Premiums and Premiums due, but not yet received... 655,844 30—772,929 03
Gross Assets, Jan. 31, 1866... \$14,885,278 88
Increase in Net Cash Assets for the Year... \$2,312,935 17

THE GROSS ASSETS OF THE COMPANY ARE THUS APPROPRIATED:

Reserve to reinsure outstanding policies, including dividend additions to same... \$11,503,996 03
Claims ascertained and unpaid (not due)... 122,750 00
Dividend additions to same... 23,497 64
Post-mortem dividends (uncalled for)... 29,931 73
Premiums paid in advance... 11,065 48
Undivided surplus (excluding a margin on the above Reserves of over \$1,000,000)... 218,649 42
Dividend of 1866... \$2,975,388 59
Gross Assets, Feb. 1, 1866, as above... \$14,885,278 88
N. B.—The reserve to reinsure outstanding policies and additions (\$11,503,996 03), as above, includes a margin of \$1,000,000 over and above the net value, at four per cent. interest, so that the total undivided surplus exceeds \$1,300,000.

This company is PURELY MUTUAL, all surplus belonging exclusively to the assured.

Its Cash Assets are... \$14,885,278 88
Invested in Bonds and Mortgages in the State of New York, worth double the amount thereof; Office Real Estate; Bonds of the State of New York; U. S. Stock.

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LIABILITIES, 244,391 42

LOSSES PAID IN 45 YEARS, \$17,485,894 71.

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SURPLUS, Jan. 1, 1866, 205,989 83

TOTAL ASSETS, \$705,989 83

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